

Missing Missiles

BEN HUBBARD
Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — Crates of mortar shells sit unguarded and empty boxes for missiles to blow up tanks and bring down



airplanes are strewn about arms depots around the Libyan capital. Former rebels say they took some ammunition for the fight against Moammar Gadhafi, but U.S. officials and others have expressed fears Libya's weapons could fall into the wrong hands. The six-month civil war that ended Gadhafi's 42-year rule and sent him into hiding also threw open the gates to his regime's extensive armories. The country's new leaders, who are struggling to establish a government, have failed to secure many of the caches, making them free game for looters, former rebel fighters or anyone with a truck to carry them away. Since Gadhafi's fall last month, American and U.N. officials have warned that the failure to control Libya's weapons could destabilize the whole of North Africa.

(AP Photo/Ben Hubbard)

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Heated Debate



Perry, Romney trade blows on Social Security, jobs

Republican presidential candidates former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, left, and Texas Gov. Rick Perry answer a question during a Republican presidential candidate debate at the Reagan Library Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2011, in Simi Valley, Calif.

(AP Photo/Jae C. Hong)

KASIE HUNT

Associated Press

SIMI VALLEY, Calif. (AP) —

Quick to tangle, Republican presidential rivals Rick Perry and Mitt Romney sparred vigorously over job creation and Social Security Wednesday night in a feisty campaign debate that marked a contentious new turn in the race to pick a 2012 challenger to President Barack Obama. Far more than in earlier GOP debates this summer, the candidates mixed it up in their first faceoff since Perry entered the race and almost instantly overtook Romney as front-runner in opinion polls. Those two — as well as other contenders on stage — sniped at one another, contradicted allegations and interrupted media questioners to demand opportunities to take each other on.

"Michael Dukakis created jobs three times faster than you did, Mitt," Perry jabbed in the debate's opening moments, referring to one

of Romney's Democratic predecessors as governor of Massachusetts.

"As a matter of fact, George Bush and his predecessors created jobs at a faster rate than you did," Romney shot back at Perry, the 10-year incumbent Texas governor.

The debate was the first of three in as many weeks, at a time when the economy is struggling, unemployment is seemingly stuck at 9.1 percent and Obama's popularity is sinking in the polls — all events that could make the GOP nomination worth more than it appeared only a few months ago.

Perry and Romney stood next to each other on the debate stage at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, a setting that invoked the memory of the conservative Republican who swept to two terms as president. And for much of the evening, the two men were at the center of the action, largely reduc-



Republican presidential candidate Rep. Michele Bachmann, R-Minn., answers a question during a Republican presidential candidate debate at the Reagan Library Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2011, in Simi Valley, Calif. On a foreign policy issue, Bachmann criticized Obama's decision to join an international military campaign in Libya. Bachmann also said she would provide the "strong, bold leader in the presidency who will lead" the effort to repeal the health care law passed at Obama's behest.

(AP Photo/Jae C. Hong)

ing their rivals to the roles of spectators looking for a way into the action.

Former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman sided with Perry when he turned to Romney and said, "47th just isn't going to cut it, my friend," a reference to the rank Massachusetts had among the 50 states in creating jobs during Romney's term. But he also sought to rebut Perry's claim to be chief executive of the country's top job-producing state.

"I hate to rain on the parade of the great Lone Star State governor, but as governor of Utah, we were the No. 1 job creator during my years in service," Huntsman said.

Businessman Herman Cain, Minnesota Rep. Michele Bachmann, Texas Rep. Ron Paul, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich and former Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania shared the stage for the debate hosted by MSNBC and Politico.

Continued on next Page

Perry, Romney trade blows on Social Security, jobs

Continued from front

Not surprisingly, the GOP contenders had little good to say about Obama, either his record on creating jobs or the health care law they have vowed to repeal if they win the White House. Perry was an exception, volunteering his praise for the presidential order that resulted in the death of Osama bin Laden in a U.S. military raid in Pakistan.

He also said he was happy the U.S. prison at Guantanamo has been kept open. On another foreign policy issue, Bachmann criticized Obama's decision to join an international military campaign in Libya.

Bachman also said she would provide the "strong, bold leader in the presidency who will lead" the effort to repeal the health care law passed at Obama's behest. "None of us should ever think that the repeal bill will just come to our desk," she said in a pledge that drew applause from the audience. Gingrich resisted an effort to draw him into conflict with other Republicans on stage. "I'm frankly not interested in your efforts to get Republi-



Republican presidential candidates, from left, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Rep. Michele Bachmann, R-Minn., former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, Texas Gov. Rick Perry, Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas, businessman Herman Cain and former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman stand at the podium to answer questions during a debate at the Reagan Library Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2011, in Simi Valley, Calif.

cans fighting each other," he said, sparking an even louder round of applause. He said all Republicans should "defeat efforts by the news media" to spark an internal struggle when the real objective is to defeat Obama in 2012.

But moments later, Cain said that after trying to defeat Democratic efforts to create national health

care, "I'm running against Romneycare," the legislation that passed requiring residents of Massachusetts to purchase coverage. Social Security produced more sparks, when Perry said the program was a "Ponzi scheme" and added it was a lie to tell young workers they will ever receive the benefits they have been promised.

Romney quickly referred to Perry's book, "Fed Up," in which the Texas governor said that by any measure the program was a failure. Perry also said states should be able to opt out of the program, Romney added. Perry was unrepentant — "You cannot keep the status quo in place and call it anything other than a Ponzi scheme," he said. □

(AP Photo/Jae C. Hong)

Confusion Grows over Gadhafi

RYAN LUCAS

Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — A Tripoli military official said Wednesday that Moammar Gadhafi is cornered and the days before he is captured or killed are numbered, but another senior defense official contended that Libya's new rulers have no idea where the fugitive former leader is. The comments are the latest in a series of conflicting statements on the most pressing question still haunting the North African nation — where is Gadhafi? The ousted leader, who ruled Libya for nearly 42 years, hasn't been seen in public for months, and has released only audio messages trying to rally his supporters and lash out at his opponents. He went into hiding after opposition fighters swept into Tripoli on Aug. 21. The former rebels are still battling regime loyalists in three Gadhafi strongholds — Bani Walid, Sabha and Sirte. Hunting down Gadhafi would help seal the new rulers' hold on the country, and likely trigger the collapse of the remaining regime loyalists still fighting the former rebels. Anis Sharif, a spokesman for Tripoli's military council, told The Associated Press that Gadhafi was still in Libya and had been tracked using advanced technology and human intelligence. Rebel forces have taken up positions on all sides of the fugitive leader's presumed location, with none more than 40 miles (60 kilometers) away, he said, without elaborating. "He can't get out," said Sharif, who added the former rebels are preparing to either detain him or kill him. "We are just playing games with him," he said. He said an operations room manned by about 20 people has been set up in Tripoli to try to track Gadhafi's movements and coordinate the search. □

Missing weapons from Libya arms caches raise fears

Continued from front

Last week, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton called on Libya's new leaders to secure the ousted regime's weapons. "They still have a huge hill to climb," Clinton said.

"But they are working with the international community to secure both chemical weapons stockpiles as well as conventional weapons." However, visits by The Associated Press to weapons caches around Tripoli show that many remain poorly guarded and have already been heavily looted.

About a dozen rebels wandered around one site the AP visited on Wednesday, where a large hangar was strewn with the boxes of missing weapons.

Rebels at another site were leaving with a load of tank shells they said they were taking to a safe place for

storage. They acknowledged, however, that they'd found the site unguarded. It remains unclear how

many weapons have been uncovered in Tripoli since Gadhafi's fall, said Peter Bouckaert of Human Rights Watch, who has been

searching the city for them. Lots of munitions appear to have been hidden in civilian buildings to avoid airstrikes by NATO, which bombed regime military targets under a United Nations mandate to protect civilians.

At one unguarded site, Bouckaert said he found 100,000 anti-tank and anti-personnel mines. Elsewhere, he found weapons caches hidden under fruit trees.

"The problem is that the locals usually find out first and by the time we arrive and we can get some guards there, a lot of the most dangerous weapons have already been taken away," he said.

A green sign at the entrance of a site the AP visited Wednesday said the facility belonged to the Libyan Education Ministry. □



Boxes of mines and other munitions are piled high inside a warehouse as Libyan rebels check inside a former Gadhafi Military base in Abu Shweicha, outskirts of Al Ajaylat, 120 km west of Tripoli, Libya, Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2011. Libya Rebels have located warehouses housing large quantities of munitions, protective gear and weapon components.

(AP Photo/Francois Mori)

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A large construction crane is seen upended next to the Washington National Cathedral Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2011, in Washington. The 500-foot crane fell amid thunderstorms, damaging two buildings and several vehicles.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

Crane collapses at National Cathedral

ERIC TUCKER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A 500-ton crane at the Washington National Cathedral collapsed Wednesday amid thunderstorms and driving rain, damaging two nearby buildings and several vehicles as crews worked on damage to the cathedral from a recent earthquake.

The crane operator was taken to a hospital with injuries, but no one else was hurt.

The collapse came four days before President Barack Obama's scheduled speech inside the cathedral to observe the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terror attacks. The speech is the highlight of three days of events set to start Friday at the cathedral.

No immediate decision was made whether the commemoration, which also includes a concert and vigil, would be held as planned, said Richard Weinberg, a spokesman for the cathedral. The crane was being used to repair dings caused by the Aug. 23 East Coast earthquake. The cathedral's limestone exterior towers and some interior areas were damaged. It has been closed to visitors during repairs. The crane, based on the bed of a tractor-trailer, toppled around 11 a.m. and slammed into the parking lot, damaging at least three cars. □

Congress returns to fight over budget

ANDREW TAYLOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fights large and small await Congress as it gets back to business, with jobs and budget cuts topping a contentious agenda that also includes a lengthy roster of lower-profile but must-do items that also are potential victims of partisan gridlock.

President Barack Obama

According to people familiar with the White House deliberations, two of the biggest measures in the president's proposals for 2012 are expected to be a one-year extension of a payroll tax cut for workers and an extension of expiring jobless benefits. Together those two would total about \$170 billion.

The people spoke on the

ing Thursday amid mixed expectations that it can be successful in a highly partisan climate infused with heavy doses of presidential politics.

In the Senate, the political tit-for-tat started immediately after the opening prayer Tuesday.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell predicted Obama's speech on jobs



People stand in line waiting to fill boxes with food at the Living Faith Assembly Church food pantry, Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2011, in Las Vegas. The worsening jobs outlook has put pressure on President Barack Obama. He is expected today to introduce a \$300 billion jobs package before a joint session of Congress as they return from their August break.

(AP Photo/Julie Jacobson)

is to unveil his jobs agenda in a nationally televised address tonight, but early glimpses of the package show it relies heavily on extending expiring programs. Obama is expected to propose \$300 billion in tax cuts and federal spending to get Americans working again. Republicans on Tuesday offered to compromise with him on jobs — but also assailed his plans in advance of his prime-time speech.

condition of anonymity because the plan was still being finalized and some proposals could still be subject to change.

The White House is also considering a tax credit for businesses that hire the unemployed and spending on public works projects such as school construction. Obama's speech dovetails with the launch of a bipartisan deficit-reduction panel that will hold its first meet-

legislation to a joint session of Congress would include "more of the same failed approach that's only made things worse over the past few years."

He spoke a few moments after the Senate's top Democrat, Harry Reid of Nevada, had said that Republicans, rather than working with Democrats to produce job-creating legislation, insist on "reckless cuts to hurt our economic recovery." □

Firefighters gain ground against Texas wildfire

APRIL CASTRO

Associated Press

BASTROP, Texas (AP) —

Firefighters gained ground Wednesday against one of the most destructive wildfires in Texas history even as the number of homes lost reached almost 800, and an elite search team set out to find any victims in the smoking ruins.

Gov. Rick Perry, meanwhile, resumed his presidential campaign after rushing home over the weekend to deal with the crisis, traveling to California to meet his Republican rivals Wednesday night in his first nationally televised debate.

The blaze has left at least four people dead and blackened about 45 square miles (116 square kilometers) around Bastrop and cast a haze over Austin, 25 miles (40 kilometers) to the east, where the air smelled strongly of pine and cedar. Firefighters reported that the flames were at least 30 percent contained after burning uncontrolled for three days. They credited an easing of the winds from Tropical Storm Lee that had caused the fire to explode over the weekend. Nevertheless, the number of homes reported destroyed rose from around 600 the day before. The wildfire is the most catastrophic of



Homes destroyed by wildfire are seen Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2011, in Bastrop, Texas. The fire has destroyed more than 600 homes and blackened about 45 square miles in and around Bastrop. A search team on Wednesday will begin looking for more possible victims of the fire, which has killed two people and forced thousands to evacuate.

(AP Photo/Eric Gay)

more than 170 blazes that have erupted in the past week across Texas, where the countryside is perilously dry because of one of the most severe droughts on record in Texas. Texas Task Force 1, a search team that was sent to New York following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and to New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, set out in the Bastrop area, using dogs trained to sniff out bodies.

Mike Fisher, the Bastrop County Emergency Operations Agency's incident commander, said he didn't

US court allows life sentences for juveniles

GREG BLUESTEIN

Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) —

A U.S. federal appeals court on Wednesday held that juveniles convicted of murder can be sentenced to life in prison without parole, seeking to settle a lingering debate over how the courts punish minors who commit serious offenses.

The U.S. Supreme Court has already ruled that juveniles cannot be sentenced to death and that they also can't be sentenced to life in prison without parole for rape and other non-homicide offenses. The ruling by the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals on Wednesday, though, upheld life sentences for juveniles convicted of murder.

The decision came in the case against Kenneth Loggins, who was convicted in Alabama of killing a hitchhiker in 1994 and originally sentenced to die. He was 17 at the time of the killing, so his punishment was reduced to life without parole because the Supreme Court banned such executions in 2005.

His attorneys had urged the three-judge panel to

know if there were any more dead, but "if there are bodies out there, that team is going to find them." Several thousand people evacuated ahead of the fire, but only around 2,500 registered with the county. Across the state, about 1,200 firefighters battled the blazes. The outbreak has made this the state's costliest wildfire season on record, with \$216 million in firefighting expenses since late 2010. The crisis is unfolding months after Perry signed a budget that cut funding to the Texas Forest Service by one-third. Yet the agency insisted that being \$35 million lighter hasn't left Texas less equipped to fight the latest fires. □

broaden a 2010 Supreme Court ruling to include murders. That 5-4 ruling held that juveniles cannot be sentenced to life in prison without parole if they haven't killed anyone, and ordered the courts to allow them a "meaningful opportunity to obtain release." But prosecutors argued that the high court took pains to specify the ruling only applied in non-homicide cases, and the 11th Circuit said it found no reason to toss out Loggins' prison sentence.

The decision, written by Circuit Judge Ed Carnes, said "there's nothing in law or logic" to support the argument that a state shouldn't be allowed to impose the next most severe punishment if a death penalty sentence is banned. □

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Man linked to bomb threat surrenders

SAN CLEMENTE, California (AP) — A Navy corpsman turned himself in Wednesday after leaving a threatening note claiming he planted bombs at a nearby Southern California high school in an incident that prompted administrators to order students out of the building on the first day of classes. Daniel Morgan, 22, surrendered at Camp Pendleton Marine Corps base at around 1 p.m. local time Wednesday, Master Sgt. Mark Oliva said. Morgan was last seen at the base at 5 p.m. local time Tuesday, Orange County sheriff's spokesman Jim Amormino said. When he failed to show up for work Wednesday morning,

his barracks were searched and a note was discovered, he said. Morgan wrote that he had placed explosive devices in and around San Clemente High School, which is located just a few miles from one of the gates to Camp Pendleton, Amormino said. Soon after the note was found, about 3,200 students and 180 faculty members were told to leave the school's buildings. Students and staff waited on the school's football field — and later in the gymnasium, auditorium and other rooms — as bomb squads searched through buildings and classrooms. After about four hours, everyone was sent home.



Police evacuate thousands of students from the football field to the gymnasium after a missing Navy medic left a note claiming he planed explosives at the high school in San Clemente, Calif., Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2011. (AP Photo/Lori Shepler)

Docs: NYPD eyed 250-plus mosques, student groups

**ADAM GOLDMAN
MATT APUZZO
Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Police Department collected intelligence on more than 250 mosques and Muslim student groups in and around New York, often using undercover officers and informants to canvass the Islamic population of America's largest city, according to officials and confidential, internal documents obtained by The Associated Press.

The documents, many marked "secret," highlight how the past decade's hunt for terrorists also put huge numbers of innocent people under scrutiny as they went about their daily lives in mosques, businesses and social groups.

An Associated Press investigation last month revealed that a secret squad known as the Demographics Unit sent teams of undercover officers to help key tabs on the area's Muslim communities. The recent documents are the first to quantify that effort.

Since the 2001 attacks, the police department has built one of the nation's most aggressive domestic intelligence agencies, one that operates far outside the city limits and maintains a list of "ancestries of interest" that it uses to focus its



People pass below a New York Police Department security camera, upper left, which is above a mosque on Fulton St., in the Brooklyn neighborhood of Bedford-Stuyvesant in New York. The New York Police Department collected intelligence on more than 250 mosques and Muslim student groups in and around New York, often using undercover officers and informants to canvas the Islamic population of America's largest city, according to officials and confidential, internal documents obtained by The Associated Press.

(AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)

clandestine efforts. That effort has benefited from federal money and an unusually close relationship with the CIA, one that at times blurred the lines between domestic and foreign intelligence-gathering.

After identifying more than 250 area mosques, police

official involved in that effort, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the program.

Armed with that information, police then identified 53 "mosques of concern" and placed undercover officers and informants there, the documents show. □

No bombs had been found by late Wednesday afternoon. Also, officials didn't believe that any military-grade explosives were taken from the base, Marine Lt. Joshua Benson said.

Morgan was being interviewed by military authorities and could face a military charge of unauthorized absence after failing to report to duty, Oliva said. □

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Obama's best jobs plan might be status quo

By PAUL WISEMAN

AP Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — First, do no harm. Economists say the most important part of the jobs plan President Barack Obama will unveil Thursday night is the renewal of two measures already in place — a cut in Social Security taxes and emergency aid for the unemployed.

His new proposals, like spending more for transportation projects and cutting taxes for companies that hire the unemployed, probably wouldn't add many jobs, they say. Not soon, anyway.

"These are not bold, new, big programs," says Nariman Behravesh, chief economist with IHS Global Insight. "You put everything together, it's going to be pretty small."

The job market needs big help. In August, the economy generated zero job growth. And the unemployment rate is 9.1 percent, a level more typical for a recession than for a recovery in its third year.

For Obama, who also faces sinking approval ratings as he goes before a joint session of Congress and on national TV, the options are limited. Congress must approve any new measures, and congressional Republicans oppose new spending.

"Anything that would be of a big enough size to really help the labor market is going to have trouble getting through Congress," says Michael Hanson, senior economist at Bank of America Merrill Lynch. "And anything that can get through Congress will be too small

to be much help."

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde and other economists have urged Congress to do more to help job growth and the economy over the next year or two — and worry about cutting spending

\$50,000.

Keeping the tax cut would cost the government \$110 billion to \$115 billion. The research firm Macroeconomic Advisers estimates it would support 400,000 jobs in 2012. The theory: More money in people's pockets increases demand for goods and services across



President Barack Obama speaks as he honors Jimmie Johnson for the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Championship in the East Room the White House in Washington, Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2011. Economists say the most important part of the jobs plan President Barack Obama will unveil tonight is the renewal of two measures already in place — a cut in Social Security taxes and emergency aid for the unemployed.

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

later. Economist Barry Bosworth of the Brookings Institution, for example, says the government needs to spend \$700 billion to \$800 billion a year to generate healthy job growth.

Obama's plan was still being shaped Wednesday. Here are the ideas the White House is considering: — Extending, for one year, a cut in the payroll tax that supports Social Security. The cut, part of a deal struck last December by Obama and Republicans, reduces the tax to 4.2 percent from 6.2 percent on the first \$106,800 a person makes. That amounts to \$1,000 a year for someone earning

the economy, and businesses have to have enough workers to keep up.

The problem is that keeping the tax cut doesn't create jobs where they didn't exist before.

"It's in the 'Do no harm' camp," says economist Heidi Shierholz of the Economic Policy Institute. "We have that support now, so it's not going to gain us anything. It's just a matter of: If we let it go, we lose."

Critics of this approach also point out that the extra money in people's paychecks this year has mostly been eaten up by higher gasoline prices.

"Continuing the payroll tax

cut is tempting," says John Makin, economist at the American Enterprise Institute. "But I have to ask, if I look at the results, is it worth an increase in the deficit and debt?"

— Keeping emergency unemployment benefits for another year. Unemployment checks put money in the hands of people who are likely to spend it immediately, helping businesses and making them more likely to hire.

Macroeconomic Advisers estimates that another year of emergency unemployment benefits would support 200,000 jobs in 2012.

Critics say unemployment benefits discourage some people from aggressively seeking work. Researchers at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco have concluded that unemployment benefits keep the unemployment rate about 0.4 percentage point higher than it would be otherwise. The unemployed used to get 26 weeks of benefits. During the recession, Congress extended it to as much as 99 weeks — almost two years — in states with high unemployment.

Obama may back a national version of a Georgia program that encourages businesses to provide on-the-job training for people receiving unemployment benefits. About a third of the time, the workers wind up getting hired full-time.

—Offering tax incentives to businesses to hire the unemployed. Under consideration is an expanded version of a law passed last year that encouraged companies to hire the unemployed. □

AP: Scientist pleads guilty to espionage

NEDRA PICKLER

PETE YOST

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An accomplished former government space scientist admitted in court Wednesday to trying to sell classified information to Israel, but federal agents say they believe they stopped him from passing any secrets. Not that they can know for sure.

The investigators say the undercover sting operation that caught Stewart David Nozette might never have been launched if he had not been cheating on his taxes. It has ended with Nozette facing 13 years in prison.

Nozette pleaded guilty to one count of attempted espionage, admitting he tried to provide Israel with top secret information about satellites, early warning systems, ways of retaliating against large-scale attack, communications intelligence information and major elements of defense strategy.

Prosecutors and Nozette's lawyers agreed to the 13-year sentence, with credit for two years Nozette already has spent behind bars since his arrest. U.S. District Judge Paul Friedman said he was prepared to accept the deal, pending Nozette's cooperation with prosecutors, a procedure expected to last into November. Appearing in court in a prison jumpsuit, the 54-year-old Nozette said he understood the charge to which he was pleading. □

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Muslim students stand trial

AMY TAXIN,
Associated Press
SANTA ANA, California (AP)

— Prosecutors have argued that 10 Muslim university students broke the law when they shouted down a speech by the Israeli ambassador on a Southern California campus. Prosecutor Dan Wagner on Wednesday says emails from the leader of a Muslim campus group at University of California, Irvine show that students carefully drafted a plan to disrupt an address by Israeli Ambassa-



Estee Chandler, organizer for Jewish Voice for Peace, left, speaks at a news conference in Santa Ana, Calif., Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2011, prior to opening statements in the trial of the so-called Irvine 11, men who are accused of disrupting a speech by the Israeli ambassador to the U.S. at the University of California, at Irvine.
(AP Photo/Alex Gallardo)

dor Michael Oren last year and read from scripted statements to carry it out. But defense attorneys say the students planned their protest within the boundaries of the law and their combined statements lasted no longer than five minutes. The opening statements came in the trial of 10 Muslim students facing misdemeanor charges that carry a maximum sentence of a year in jail if convicted. □

Bill Richardson seeks release of American in Cuba

PAUL HAVEN
Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Former New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson arrived in Cuba on Wednesday to seek the freedom of a U.S. government subcontractor sentenced to 15 years in prison for bringing communications equipment to the island illegally.

It was the first sign that intensifying calls for Maryland-native Alan Gross' release might bear fruit after months of false hopes and bitter disappointment that have overwhelmed efforts at improved relations between the two Cold War enemies.

A lawyer for Gross said Richardson made the trip at the invitation of the Cuban government, though Richardson himself would not confirm that, nor say what he hoped to accomplish on the trip.

"I don't have any comment," he told The Associated Press at the capital's Nacional Hotel. "Perhaps at the end of my stay." State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said the Obama administration was aware of the trip and was in contact with Richardson.

"While Gov. Richardson is traveling as a private citizen, we certainly support his efforts to obtain Alan Gross' release," she said. Gross has been jailed since his arrest in December 2009. Cuba says he was distributing satellite telephones and other communications equipment that are illegal to use without authorization. It has also called the USAID-funded democracy program that he was on a thinly veiled attempt at overthrowing the government

Gross has said that he was only trying to help Cuba's tiny Jewish community improve Internet access, and that he had no desire to offend. In court testimony from March that was released earlier this week by his own lawyer, Gross de-

paid dearly for this," Gross told the court.

The court was apparently unmoved, convicting him of crimes against the Cuban state. The decision was later upheld by the nation's Supreme Court, leaving the American with no legal re-

Those who have met and spoken with him say Gross has lost 100 pounds while in custody, and both his elderly mother and adult daughter are suffering from cancer, among other hardships the family has endured.

Richardson was last in Havana in August, when he met with Cuba's foreign minister and appealed for Gross's release.

A former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Richardson has experience with winning prisoner releases. As a congressman in 1996, he secured the liberation of three island political prisoners during talks with Fidel Castro in Havana.

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter also raised Gross' case at the highest levels of government during a trip to Havana in March. The former president was received warmly by Fidel and Raul Castro and was even allowed to talk with Gross in jail, but he left empty handed. □



Former New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson arrived in Cuba on Wednesday to seek the freedom of a U.S. government subcontractor sentenced to 15 years in prison for bringing communications equipment to the island illegally.

scribed himself as a "trusting fool."

"I was duped. I was used. And my family and I have

course.

That has led to growing appeals for Gross' release on humanitarian grounds.

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Heavy gunfire in central, north Syria; 11 killed



An anti-Syrian regime protester, waves by Syrian revolution flag during a demonstration to show support to the Syrian protesters, in Cairo, Egypt. Arabic placard reads "Syrians people say: No for talks, get out".

(AP Photo)

ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian security forces unleashed a barrage of gunfire Wednesday, killing at least 11 people and leaving thousands cowering in their homes as President Bashar Assad's troops kept up the government's assault on a 6-month-old uprising, activists and witnesses said.

Nine of the dead were in Homs, a hotbed of opposition to Assad's autocratic regime. Two others were shot dead during raids in Sarameen, in northern Syria. In a step the opposition says shows the regime is intractable, a planned visit by the Arab League secretary general Wednesday to push Assad to make major concessions to defuse the

crisis was called off at the last minute at the government's request.

Arab League Deputy Secretary-General Ahmed Ben Heli told reporters in Egypt that Elaraby will now visit Damascus on Saturday. He said the decision was made in a phone call between Elaraby and Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem.

For days, security forces have been pursuing activists and anti-government protesters in Homs, part of a ferocious crackdown on the most serious challenge to the 40-year Assad dynasty. The U.N. says more than 2,200 people have died in nearly six months of protests.

"All through the night, there

was shooting. The gunfire didn't stop," a resident of the city told The Associated Press by phone Wednesday. "I can't tell exactly what is going on because it's dangerous to go out." He spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals.

Omar Idilbi, a spokesman for the Local Coordination Committees, an activist network, said security forces simultaneously stormed several districts in the old part of the city, including the Bab Dreib, Bab Houd and the Bayada neighborhoods. Nine people were confirmed dead in ongoing shooting in those areas, the LCC said.

The London-based Observatory for Human Rights, which has a network of activists across the country, said 10 were killed.

Homs, Syria's third-largest city, has seen some of the largest anti-regime protests in Syria over the past months, despite repeated crackdowns.

On Tuesday, security forces opened fire from a checkpoint in Rastan, just north of Homs, killing two people, including a 15-year-old boy, activists said. They said five unidentified corpses, including that of a woman, also were found dumped around the city center.

Mobile telephones, land lines and Internet connections in some parts of Homs were cut off Wednesday. Many people were staying

home because of roads blocked by security forces. Others were too scared to leave.

State-run news agency SANA said a "terrorist group" kidnapped two Baath party officials in Rastan Wednesday. Authorities last week reported the kidnapping of the attorney general of the central city of Hama, Adnan Bakkour. Two days later, he appeared in a video announcing he had defected from the regime. Activists say he is now safely out of Syria. But authorities insist he was being kept against his will by gunmen and say they are searching for him.

Idilbi said there were reports of army defections in Homs Wednesday, saying fierce fighting took place between factions of soldiers. There have been credible reports of scattered, mostly low-level army defections in the past months, although it is difficult to gauge the extent.

An amateur video posted online by activists in Rastan showed a group of alleged army defectors in military uniforms saluting crowds calling for the regime's downfall from a balcony.

A particularly disturbing video making the rounds on social networking sites Wednesday showed a group of men in military uniform repeatedly shooting a man as he lay bleeding and motionless on the ground. □

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Iran:

Assad should hold talks with protesters

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — Syrian President Bashar Assad should back away from his violent crackdown on protesters and enter talks with the opposition, Iran's leader Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Wednesday. "There should be talks" between the Syrian government and its opponents, Ahmadinejad said in a live interview in Tehran with Portuguese broadcaster Radiotelevissao Portuguesa.

"A military solution is never the right solution," Ahmadinejad said, according to a simultaneous Portuguese translation of his comments.

"We believe that freedom and justice and respect for others are the rights of all nations. All governments have to recognize these rights," he said. "Problems have to

be dealt with through dialogue."

Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi said last month that Assad should answer the legitimate demands of his people.

"Other countries in the region can help the Syrian government and people to talk to each other with a view to resolving their differences and introducing the reforms that are needed," Ahmadinejad said.

Iran, Damascus' chief ally, has blamed the U.S. and Israel for instigating more than five months of protests in Syria.

The U.S. and other nations have accused Iran of helping Assad crush the uprising.

"Other countries have no right to interfere in ... domestic discussions," Ahmadinejad said, citing NATO's intervention in Libya as an example of misguided actions. □

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Dr. Ali al-Ekri, center, and an unidentified man hug each other at al-Ekri's home Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2011, in Daih, Bahrain, on the outskirts of the capital of Manama. More than 100 jailed Bahraini activists — including doctors who treated injured protesters during months of anti-government protests and crackdowns in the Gulf kingdom — are on hunger strike, an international panel said Wednesday.

(AP Photo/Hasan Jamali)

Bahrain panel: 101 now on hunger strike

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — More than 100 jailed Bahraini activists — including doctors who treated injured protesters during months of anti-government protests and crackdowns in the Gulf kingdom — are on hunger strike, an international panel said Wednesday.

The Bahrain Commission of Inquiry said in a statement that 84 opposition supporters are on hunger strike in prison. In addition, 17 detained activists have been hospitalized by the Interior Ministry for their refusal to eat.

Hundreds of activists have been imprisoned since February when Shiite-led demonstrations for greater rights began in the Sunni-ruled Bahrain, the home of the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet. More than 30 people have been killed since protests inspired by Arab uprisings began in February.

Large clashes broke out between riot police and youth protesters after a celebration over the release of one of the doctors from prison in northern city of Dih.

An unknown number of protesters were wounded when security forces fired shotguns, according to witnesses. Clashes between youth and police are a near nightly occurrence in Bahrain, but Wednesday evening's clashes in Dih were the largest in weeks, witnesses said.

The five-member panel has been set up in June to investigate the unrest. Wednesday's statement said an international expert on hunger strikes will join the panel to visit the striking detainees and evaluate their condition. □

Knox trial:

Court rejects new DNA test request

ALESSANDRA RIZZO

Associated Press

PERUGIA, Italy (AP) —

American student Amanda Knox won another battle in her quest to overturn a conviction for murdering her British roommate in Italy when an appeals court rejected a prosecutor's request for more DNA testing. The decision Wednesday is good for Knox because it means that an independent review of DNA evidence — previously ordered by the appeals court and hugely favorable to Knox — will stand. It deals a blow to the prosecutors who had sought to counter the results of that review, which harshly criticized how genetic evidence was used in the case.

The ruling by Judge Claudio Pratillo Hellmann also clears the way for closing arguments, which are set to begin Sept. 23 with the prosecution going first, followed by civil plaintiffs and the defense. Further retesting would have inevitably extended the 10-month long trial, now set to end late September or early October.

Knox's father, Curt Knox, said his daughter started was seeing "the light at the end of the tunnel."

However, Knox's lawyer Luciano Ghirga warned that the court's rejection of new DNA testing was not equal to a positive outcome of the whole appeals trial.

Knox was convicted in December 2009 of sexually assaulting and murdering her British roommate Meredith

Kercher while they were studying in Perugia and sentenced to 26 years; Raffaele Sollecito, an Italian who was Knox's boyfriend at the time, also was convicted and sentenced to

and much of the appeals outcome hinges on it.

In the first trial, prosecutors maintained that Knox's DNA was found on the handle of a kitchen knife believed to be the murder



Amanda Knox attends an hearing of her appeals case at the Perugia court, Italy, Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2011. The appeals court has rejected a prosecutors' request for new DNA testing saying it would be unnecessary after lengthy discussion over genetic evidence. The decision Wednesday by Judge Claudio Pratillo Hellmann opens the way for closing arguments, which are set to begin on Sept. 23 with the prosecution. A verdict is expected by month's end. Independent experts have recently cast doubt on DNA evidence that is crucial to the case.

(AP Photo/Stefano Medici)

25 years.

Both have always maintained their innocence and are appealing the lower court's verdict.

Without a clear motive or convincing witnesses, the DNA evidence is crucial,

weapon, and that Kercher's DNA was found on the blade. They said Sollecito's DNA was on the clasp of Kercher's bra as part of a mixed trace that also included the victim's genetic profile. □

Mexico president, courts spar over legal loopholes



Mexico's President Felipe Calderon gives his State of the Nation address at the National Museum of Anthropology in Mexico City. A case that has become a symbol of a nation's corrupt and inefficient justice system in Mexico has also prompted a bitter quarrel between President Felipe Calderon and the nation's courts, one of which recently released Moreno for what the judge said was a lack of sufficient evidence. (AP Photo/Eduardo Verdugo)

MARK STEVENSON
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The yacht is gone. The Ferrari seized. The men who allegedly gave them to Nestor Moreno have been convicted of bribery in the United States. But the flamboyant former government executive is still free in Mexico in a case that has become a symbol of the nation's corrupt and inefficient justice system. It also has prompted a bitter quarrel between President Felipe Calderon and the nation's courts, one of which recently released Moreno for what the judge said was a lack of sufficient evidence. Moreno's release came despite confessions from U.S. executives who admitted to paying him millions of dollars in bribes, and as national newspapers

draped photos of his yacht over front-page stories citing alleged proof of his corruption obtained by U.S. prosecutors. The decision sent Calderon over the edge. "You catch them and put together a good case, and they get off free," Calderon said Wednesday. A secretary who answered the telephone at the office of Moreno's lawyer, Hector Galvan, said he was not in Wednesday. The Associated Press left a message requesting a comment on his client's behalf. In 2007, U.S. authorities began investigating schemes in which U.S. companies allegedly paid bribes or kickbacks to officials of Mexico's Federal Electricity Commission, or CFE, in exchange for lucrative contracts. □

More troops flood into police-controlled Rio slum

FLORA CHARNER
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — More troops flooded into a Rio de Janeiro slum Wednesday after fellow soldiers came under attack by drug traffickers. About 100 marines

Television images on Tuesday showed bullets streaking across the sky and desperate residents trying to find cover in the sprawling area where security forces drove out drug traffickers last year as part of a cleanup ahead

are lying," Rio de Janeiro Public Safety Secretary Jose Mariano Beltrame said at a news conference.

"We are guaranteeing freedom for these communities and handing back this territory to them and giving them a window of opportunity. Some incidents are still likely to occur, though."

Authorities announced police will occupy two nearby shantytowns from which they believe the drug gangs attacked the soldiers in Alemao. Brazil promised to improve security in Rio as part of its bid to host the Olympics. The Alemao complex, for decades key territory for Rio's biggest drug gang, the Red Command, was seen as key for authorities because it hugs a highway leading to the international airport. Rio is also expected to host the 2013 Confederations Cup and the 2014 World Cup final at Maracana stadium. "Criminal forces operating in the Alemao shantytown made it a fortress for years, where it operated as its own separate state," said Police Commander Mario Sergio.

"Those people who controlled that state are not happy with the loss and will try to provoke some reaction whenever they can. □



Residents stand at a bar as soldiers stand guard at the Alemao slum complex in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Wednesday Sept. 7, 2011. About 100 marines deployed to help patrol the Alemao slum complex a day after soldiers were fired on by gang members in a neighboring slum that has not yet been taken over by police. More than 1,500 men and several armored vehicles from different police and military units were patrolling the area on Rio de Janeiro's north side.

(AP Photo/Felipe Dana)

deployed to help patrol the Alemao slum complex a day after soldiers were fired on by gang members in a neighboring slum that has not yet been taken over by police.

More than 1,500 men and several armored vehicles from different police and military units were patrolling the area on Rio de Janeiro's north side.

of the 2016 Olympics. Officials said there were no reports of anyone killed in the overnight shooting that spread panic in the region. They denied reports a 15-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet.

"This area was dominated by drug traffickers. If anyone says that they will be able to change that in the short term, then they

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Vietnam accused of using addicts as forced labor

THOMAS FULLER

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BANGKOK – The Vietnamese government calls it labor therapy, a program to move drug addicts off the streets and into treatment centers, where they process cashew nuts, sew garments, weave baskets – any work that might help them get back on their feet.

But a report released Wednesday by Human Rights Watch says that labor therapy is nothing more than sweatshop servitude in the guise of a social program.

Drug addicts are paid little or nothing for their work and are subject to beatings with truncheons, electric shocks and solitary confinement, says the report, which was based on interviews with 34 people who were detained as part of the program. Some of the products made in the treatment centers are destined for export to the United States and Europe.

“Forced labor and physical abuse are not an adjunct to drug dependency treatment in Vietnam,” the report says. “Rather, they are central to how the centers operate.”

Vietnam, like many other countries in East Asia, uses a special administrative system for people who are accused of being drug addicts that is separate from the criminal courts. Addicts are sent, often by the police, to rehabilitation centers rather than to jail. That is the theory, at least.

Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan, who

oversees the centers as the minister of labor, invalids and social affairs, did not respond to an email seeking comment about the Human Rights Watch report. But Vietnamese government documents in recent years have promoted the system as a way for addicts, many of them heroin users, to restore their dignity and learn the value of work.

The camps, which have their roots in a re-education system established by Hanoi after the South Vietnamese government fell in 1975, have been judged a success by the government, and over the past decade the number of drug rehabilitation centers has more than doubled, to 123. At the start of this year, the Labor Ministry reported that the centers held about 40,000 people. The government has extended the maximum time that addicts can spend in the camps to four years from one year.

Human Rights Watch says the system has turned into a profit-making network of de facto factories. The centers are given tax exemptions for the goods they produce and are expected to be self-financing. The focus of the centers is to make money, not to treat drug addiction, the report says. Relapse rates, it notes, are often above 80 percent. The report quotes one former detainee as saying that the only attempt at rehabilitation was marching and chanting slogans like “Try your best to quit drugs!”

China’s Cabinet orders spill probe



A Chinese man holds up oil residue found in his shrimp farm in the coastal Leting county in the Bohai Bay near northern China's Hebei province. China's top leaders have ordered an investigation into oil spills in China's Bohai Bay that have drawn intense criticism from marine authorities and environmentalists, adding to pressures on oil field operator ConocoPhillips.

(AP Photo)

ELAINE KURTENBACH

AP Business Writer

SHANGHAI (AP) — China's top leaders have ordered an investigation into oil spills in China's Bohai Bay that have drawn intense criticism from marine authorities and environmentalists, adding to pressures on oil field operator ConocoPhillips. A notice calling for the probe was posted on the government's website following a meeting of the State Council, or Cabinet, on Wednesday. “We must completely identify the cause of the accident, identify the damage and losses caused by the accident, and determine who shall be held responsible to maintain the legitimate rights and interests of all parties damaged,” it said. The government has already ordered ConocoPhillips China, which operates the Penglai 19-3 oil field

with state-owned partner China National Offshore Oil Corp., to stop all production pending a full clean-

up and review to ensure no more oil seeps into the sea. China's maritime authorities contend that Houston, Texas-based ConocoPhillips failed to meet an Aug. 31 deadline for permanently staunching and cleaning up the spills, which began in June. The company says it met the deadline. Despite efforts to cut back on pollution from farming, cities and industries, the Bohai's environmental state is “very serious,” the State Council notice said. It reiterated its plans to help cut back on effluent from factories and mining and to expand sewage treatment. Environmental experts say such measures have failed to keep pace with the fast expansion of industries and oil drilling in the area, leading to the decimation of seafood and fish stocks and frequent red tides.

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Lagerfeld launches affordable women's line

ALICIA QUARLES

AP Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Some might expect Karl Lagerfeld, creative director for Chanel and Fendi, to be intimidating. The Paris-based designer, with his signature black gloves, skintight pants and sunglasses, is considered one of the most influential people in fashion as a designer, craftsman and general tastemaker.

In reality, he laughs often during interviews, doesn't take himself too seriously and jokes as he shows off his iPhone case, which features a sketch of Lagerfeld on the back.

This more laid-back style reflects Lagerfeld's latest project, an affordable women's fashion line designed for Macy's. The collection includes tweeds, dresses, shirts and shorts, and ranges in price from \$50 to \$170.

"This is a composition of different looks for different hours of the day, different lifestyles," he said in a recent interview with The Associated Press. "It is a collection of elements a woman should play with."

AP: Why did you want to design a more affordable line?

Lagerfeld: I collaborated with H&M before and was the first to do it. I think there is something very modern to do that. It is very limiting to be only the one who does high fashion. Fashion is high and low, and low isn't low today anymore.

-AP: With designers doing more affordable lines, is high fashion more democratic?

-Lagerfeld: Yes, but you know, Macy's is a very famous department store. I see it with a European view. In the past, department stores made designers in America. Now, things have changed with the Internet and the big shops.

All of it is different. But, for me, it was interesting to do that as I did H&M and also the business we start which is a business about less expensive clothes because I can't compete with Chanel and Fendi because I do already the most expensive

there. I do work in the future with Macy's, too. I know the people from Macy's. It was a very pleasant thing to do and for me it is interesting to do both sides.

-AP: What do you consider beautiful in fashion?

-Lagerfeld: What we thought was beautiful 10 years ago, we like a lot less

best about it. Today's things are not expensive. I never said cheap. That is an awful expression. They should be well designed. It is a challenge to do that price range. I see it like a challenge.

-AP: How do you decide what challenges and projects to take on?



Fashion designer Karl Lagerfeld, right, appears with model Coco Rocha at Macy's Herald Square flagship store where he unveiled his exclusive new collection, Karl Lagerfeld For Impulse Only Tuesday, Sept. 6, 2011 in New York.

(AP Photo/Starpix, Amanda Schwab)

today. It is very difficult to put it into words. The designer should shut up and do his work.

People should see what they want to see in the clothes and not what the designer tells you because I can tell you all kinds of stories totally unrelated and it may sound very clever, but I prefer not to.

-AP: Why is affordability important to you?

-Lagerfeld: That is what I like

-Lagerfeld: What I am doing is already quite a lot, but I manage. I am pretty quick. I have great people to work with. The good thing is that it is not that complicated to me. It seems normal. I don't know how I could do it differently.

-AP: What is your favorite part of the job?

-Lagerfeld: The favorite part of the job is the collection in terms of the fashion. It is an important part to go and do

things and take photos, but the result is the most important. The way to get to the result is the most pleasant. I publish books because I publish books, too. For me, there is no important and unimportant part because everything and every moment should be important.

-AP: You have been very public about your weight loss. How do you maintain it?

-Lagerfeld: There is no secret. You don't eat too much. You have somebody who takes care of what you are supposed to eat, what you are not supposed to eat. I have a doctor who tells me "eat this and don't eat this." Apparently it works because it has worked for 10 years and I haven't changed. It must be the right diet if you call it the right diet. I would call it the healthy, right way to eat.

-AP: How is this collection different from the one you did for H&M?

-Lagerfeld: H&M was seven years ago. Things are different after seven years. I forgot what I did for H&M. I remember what I did for Macy's because it is recent. I am very creative, in my own world. I prefer not to remember because I have to go ahead.

-AP: Is there a designer who is your heir apparent?

-Lagerfeld: I don't judge people, never, ever, no. So, you know, I design collections but I am not supposed to know who will wear them or where they will go. Someone says, "Oh yeah, the woman I design for is very pretentious." You are supposed to design for everyone.

There was a French designer who said, "I only design clothes for a clever woman." He went out of business.

-AP: What else do you want to do?

-Lagerfeld: I do little movies, but I have no time to make a real movie. You know, to do what I do in the conditions that I can do it is already the top of luxury, so I should not be too demanding. Give a few jobs to the others. □



Elizabeth Taylor's emerald and diamond necklace and pendant, attached at the bottom, part of a suite by BVLGARI, a gift of Richard Burton, are shown in this photograph at Christie's, in New York. Christie's auction house is selling her complete jewelry collection in New York on Dec. 13-14.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

Taylor's iconic jewels coming out to auction

ULA ILNYTZKY

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Elizabeth Taylor dazzled the world with her luminous beauty, lavish lifestyle — and an unquenchable passion for diamonds and jewels that was fueled by the great loves of her life.

The late Hollywood star amassed one of the foremost jewelry collections in the world, including a 33.19-carat diamond ring and a 16th century pear-shaped pearl from one of her seven husbands, Richard Burton.

The Associated Press recently viewed about two dozen of her most iconic pieces at Christie's auction house, which is selling her complete jewelry collection, valued at \$30 million, in New York on Dec. 13-14. These are the top jewels that Elizabeth Taylor received from the great loves of her life, Mike Todd and Richard Burton," said Christie's jewelry expert Rahul Kadakia. "They're from moments in life that were very dear to her," jewels that were purchased in Bulgari in Rome, at Cartier in New York and at auction. The stories behind them are as priceless as the gems themselves. □



Tuscany Residence celebrates Topping of the Roof



Palm Beach – A construction landmark was celebrated at Tuscany Residence when the roof rafters were topped with beer according to Dutch tradition, as the construction of the first condo units reached the highest point. On hand to congratulate the construction crew, the entire sales staff including Sales and Marketing Director Ricardo Chumaceiro, Sales Executive Marisol Quijada, Sales and Marketing Assistant Carina Zimmerman, Project Manager, Reinier Kooi some top Toscana Development NV executives. The new residential project under construction in the Noord area, the island's best neighborhood, just across the Ritz Carlton site, brings luxury Island living to a new level.

Within the walls of the residence, 78 comfortable apartments, 65 interconnected villas and 10 detached villas will be built. The buildings vary greatly in layout, as the project offers no less than twenty-four different models to choose from. Beautiful Italian architecture combined with tropical landscaping, will create a pleasant Mediterranean atmosphere in the residence, located just 600 meters from the beach, and adjacent to the Bakval neighborhood. Upscale European Alno kitchens and Banjolux bathrooms will carry that luxurious theme onto the interiors. Toscana Development NV invites you to visit the project at South Beach Centre, second floor sales offices, to help you find the home that fits your lifestyle.

Ricardo and his crew report that Tuscany Residence Aruba has enjoyed an unprecedented reception and indications are that this trend will continue through the sell-out phase



of the project. The project is currently fully fenced and two model houses are under construction, having reached the highest point of construction, with the topping of the roof celebration. With all infrastructures for utilities complete and the terrain parceled and marked, Tuscany Residence is gearing up to move the sales gallery from the South Beach Centre to the site by high-season of 2011.

Visit the sales gallery, any

day, seven days a week, just call for an appointment and free pick up, or ask your favorite broker to help get you there. Tuscany Residence Aruba apartments and villas are offered at pre-construction prices, for a while longer, and while the world is recovering from the recent economic decline, Aruba's real estate market continues to offer great investment opportunities to those prepared to take the plunge, and go ahead and live their dreams. □

Wine Rating at Ventanas del Mar



Tierra del Sol – The Arion Wine Club members of Ventanas del Mar Restaurant, all of them consummate wine & food lovers,



gathered around the community table on the terrace overlooking the California Lighthouse and the golf course to attempt to crack the secret codes of wine rating!

In the past, wine rating was the domain of just a few, Robert Parker's Wine Advocate and the Wine Spectator Magazine, but today, ratings are abundant and a do-it-yourself approach can be very helpful, the wine experts of the Arion Wine Company, advise. The restaurant's culinary team devised a "Relax, Chill and Unwind" menu, to

go with a series of interesting wines picked by Joost Röben.

On the menu, a Vitello Tonnato, which was paired with Veramonte Reserve Sauvignon Blanc, Casablanca Valley Chile. The first appetizer followed another, Smoked Trout, escorted by Domaine Gerard Neumeyer Riesling, Les Hospices Alsace, France. The dining room staff then delivered a delicious Venison Pate, which complemented the Marsannay, Louis Latour, from Burgundy France.

The main course, everyone's favorite, Chicken Parmesan, went very well with the Hogue Cellars Genesis Merlot, Colombia Valley, Washington State. For dessert, Relax Riesling, from the Mosel Valley in Germany made its debut chasing the Peach Melba for a perfect, uncomplicated, and fruity finish.

During dinner, party goes learned how wine is rated based on various methods, the first and most famous one based on the 100 point system introduced in



1978 by Robert Parker and made famous by Wine Spectator.

Other ratings included that of the Wall Street Journal and the Michelin Restaurant Guides ratings were discussed, yet at the end, the members of the Wine Club agreed that they'd rather drink wine than discuss it, trusting that the Arion Wine Company will deliver a pleasant surprise each month for the next much-enjoyed evening at Ventanas del Mar. □

Radisson's Manager of the Second Quarter is Rufo Ruiz



PALM BEACH – Resort Assistant Manager Rufo Ruiz was elected Manager of the 2nd Quarter at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa. Rufo was nominated by Fransisca van Esta Tjallingii who praised his extraordinary ability to deal with unforeseen challenges in the after-hours, in his position as the resort's night manager. She also complimented his willing-

ness to pitch in on behalf of other departments at all hours of the night, and his dedicated support of the total resort operation. Having been previously nominated four times, Rufo's win came of no surprise. "I sleep well at night with Rufo at the helm," added General Manager Rob Smith, "the resort is fortunate to have such solid night management," he

concluded. Other outstanding resort managers nominated for the Manager of the 2nd Quarter Award, Tasha Agana, selected by Albert Cruz, and Angelique Croes named by Bibi Ohab. Bibi Ohab, chosen by Randell Boekhouder received an honorable mention shared by Raynold Semleer, voted by Germaine

Wever. Tasha was praised for considerable improvements achieved in Medallia scores, since she took over the front office management; Angelique was credited with excellent "Yes I Can" training talents and abilities. Bibi was lauded for her important role as a leader within the resort community, and Raynold was commended as a fast

learner, in his new position in the Food & Beverage department. The ceremony was paired with an outing to the Bushiri Karting Speedway, and allowed managers to spin around the course for the duration of one hour, having mastered the safety rules, and donned helmets and visors. Pictured here the fun they had! □



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Techno Land launched in the Palm Beach Plaza Mall



PALM BEACH – Electronics and video games are now available in Aruba, at the Palm Beach Plaza Mall on the second floor, at the modern and spacious Techno Land. Owners' representative Ramon Luzardo welcomed press members friends and fellow-tenants of the mall to the Grand Opening on Saturday night, which was entertained by DJ music and a dance group. First shoppers were welcomed with gifts and refreshments, and first-week shoppers were treated to a freshly-introduced discount program. The opening enjoyed a great turnout with children of all ages admir-



ing all the new gadgets the store had to offer. The Palm Beach Plaza Mall welcomes Techno Land to its collection of great stores and eateries. The Palm Beach Plaza Mall aims to entertain and thrill visitors with gift and accessory shopping, fine dining, cinemas, jewelry boutiques,

fashion clothes and shoes, kid' fun city, a food court, Flow Rider, Italian gelato & pizza and a minimarket. The Palm Beach Plaza Mall receives visitors, from 10am to 10pm and on Sunday from 5pm to 10pm, with plenty of free parking, within walking distance of all the high-rise resorts. □

Russian jet crash kills 43, many top hockey stars

Rescuers work at the crash site of a Russian Yak-42 jet near the city of Yaroslavl, on the Volga River about 150 miles (240 kilometers) northeast of Moscow, Russia, Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2011. The Yak-42 jet carrying a top ice hockey team crashed while taking off Wednesday in western Russia. The Russian Emergency Situations Ministry said the plane was carrying the Lokomotiv ice hockey team from Yaroslavl.

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Cowboys most valuable NFL franchise

NEW YORK (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys are the NFL's most valuable franchise at \$1.85 billion, according to Forbes magazine's annual survey. That also gives the Cowboys the highest worth of any U.S. team, and makes them second only to Manchester United of the English Premier League, valued at \$1.9 billion, among franchises worldwide.

The New York Yankees are worth \$1.7 billion, according to Forbes' most recent baseball calculations.

Following the Cowboys in value among NFL teams are the Washington Redskins (\$1.55 billion), New England Patriots (\$1.4 billion), New York Giants (\$1.3 billion) and New York Jets (\$1.223 billion). Altogether, 15 teams are worth \$1 billion; the others are Houston, Philadelphia, Chicago, Green Bay, Baltimore, Indianapolis, Denver, Pittsburgh, Miami and Carolina. The survey is based on the 2010 season and does not include this year's lockout. Dallas' value increased 2 percent from last year's rankings. The biggest jump was made by the Giants, up 10 percent, after they moved into their new stadium in 2010. The Jets, who share that stadium with the Giants, were up 7 percent, as were the Super Bowl champion Packers, who are community-owned, and the San Francisco 49ers. Eighteen teams increased in value, five remained the same — including the Redskins — and nine decreased in worth. Coincidentally, the biggest drop was made by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers (5 percent), who are owned by the Glazer family that also owns Manchester United. □



Rain washes out all matches at U.S. Open

Serena Williams of the United States waits for the start of her quarterfinals match against Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova of Russia at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2011.

Associated Press
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A start-and-stop day at Flushing Meadows

By **EDDIE PELLIS**

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Rafael Nadal, Andy Roddick and Andy Murray got in about 15 minutes of tennis Wednesday — barely enough to work up a sweat, but more than enough to get into a snit.

Rain washed out some matches for the second straight day at the U.S. Open, creating a logjam in the schedule and a bigger mess in the locker room, where the big-name players questioned the wisdom of putting them out on courts that were still damp thanks to a fine mist that was falling in the morning. Shortly after they started, play was called, then late in the afternoon, the players were sent home — their fourth-round matches now scheduled to be completed Thursday.

U.S. Tennis Association officials didn't immediately



Workers clear water from the court at Arthur Ashe Stadium during a rain delay at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2011.

Associated Press

cancel women's play, knowing if they could squeeze any of those quarterfinal matches in, they could stay on some semblance of a schedule — and make the TV broadcasters a bit happier.

The forecast in New York for Wednesday night called for a 100 percent chance

of rain.

"Grand Slams is about a lot of money," Nadal said in an interview on ESPN after falling behind 3-0 to unseeded Gilles Muller. "We're part of the show. They're just working for that, not for us. They know it's still raining and call us onto the court. That's not possible. ... I understand

the fans are there. But the players are important in this part of the show, too, and we didn't feel protected." After being called off the court when the mist turned into rain, Nadal, Roddick and Murray all went to the tournament director's office to discuss the situation. Aware of the criticism, the USTA released a statement, saying there appeared to be a two-hour window without rain in the morning and because of that, officials decided to start play. "Unfortunately, not all light rain and mist shows up on radar," the USTA said. "We have experienced referees, and they decide if courts are fit for play. Conditions may be not ideal, but still can be safe. However, if a player or players feel that conditions are unsafe, we listen to them, as we have always done, and the referee uses that information as part of his/her assessment on whether to

continue or halt play."

Two men's quarterfinal matches — Roger Federer against Jo-Wilfried Tsonga and Novak Djokovic against Janko Tipsarevic — were postponed earlier in the day.

With rain showers lingering over the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center for the second straight day, this debate about safety, money, weather and scheduling had to suffice for the afternoon's, and maybe the evening's, entertainment.

Murray and Roddick also weighed in.

"It didn't really make a whole lot of sense in the end to go out for nine or 10 minutes when it's still raining," Murray told The Associated Press.

Nadal conceded he let his reluctance get to him, which played into a pair of double-faults in his opening service game and his early 3-0 deficit. □

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AL Roundup

Wilson shutout as Rangers beat Rays

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP) — Texas' C.J. Wilson pitched a shutout to steer the American League West-leading Rangers to an 8-0 win over the Tampa Bay Rays on Tuesday. Wilson (15-6) became the first Texas left-hander to record 15 or more wins in consecutive seasons. He has three complete games this year. David Murphy drove in four runs for the Rangers and hit a homer, as did Ian Kinsler. Adrian Beltre extended his hitting streak to 12 games with a third-inning single. Tampa Bay starter Jeff Niemann (9-7) gave up seven runs in 4 2-3 innings.

***Red Sox 14, Blue Jays 0**
In Toronto, Jon Lester struck out 11 in seven innings to win his fourth straight decision, steering Boston to a huge win over Toronto. Lester (15-6) did not al-

low any extra-base hits, and walked only one to improve to 4-0 with a 1.16 ERA in his past five starts. He also matched a season high for strikeouts and is 4-0 in his past six starts against Toronto.

Marco Scutaro and David Ortiz each matched a career-high with four hits while Jarrod Saltalamacchia and Josh Reddick homered as the Red Sox equalled a season-high with 20 hits. Blue Jays starter Luis Perez (3-3) allowed a career-worst eight runs in 2 2-3 innings.

***Tigers 10, Indians 1**
In Cleveland, Detroit opened its lead over Cleveland in the AL Central to 8-1/2 games.

Victor Martinez drove in three runs for the Tigers, who have won five straight overall and six in a row against

the Indians.

Detroit starter Rick Porcello (13-8) was staked to an 8-0 lead after the top of the second inning as the Tigers knocked around Indians starter Fausto Carmona (6-14). Porcello gave up one run over 6 1-3 innings.

***Yankees 5, Orioles 3**
In New York, the hosts had to wait until 2:15 a.m., in front of only about 500 die-hard or insomniac fans, to complete their win over Baltimore.

The game did not begin until 11:08 p.m. due to a rain delay of 4 hours, 3 minutes. Francisco Cervelli hit a tie-breaking home run in the seventh inning off Tommy Hunter (3-3). Two fans reached near the left-field wall to grab it, and even though Orioles manager Buck Showalter argued, the umpires upheld their origi-



Texas Rangers starting pitcher C.J. Wilson delivers to the Tampa Bay Rays during the second inning of a baseball game Tuesday, Sept. 6, 2011, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Associated Press

nal home-run call after a video replay.

Brett Gardner followed with a home run, and the AL East-leading Yankees won their sixth in a row. Cory Wade (4-0) won in relief.

***Mariners 2, Angels 1**
In Anaheim, Felix Hernandez won at Angel Stadium for the first time since 2006, as Seattle snapped a five-game skid with victory over Los Angeles. □

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Manning won't play vs Texans, streak ends

CLIFF BRUNT

AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) —

Peyton Manning's streak is over.

The Colts quarterback will not play Sunday in the NFL season opener at Houston, bringing an end to his streak of 227 consecutive starts, including the playoffs. The team said 38-year-old Kerry Collins will start against the Texans as Manning continues his long recovery from neck surgery in May.

"It's going to be a little different without Peyton," coach Jim Caldwell said.

"He's one of a kind. When you look across our league, most teams have had quarterbacks that have missed time. Ours has just been highly unusual."

The streak is the second longest among NFL quarterbacks behind only Brett Favre, whose 297-game run ended last season just before he called it a career.

Collins, who was brought out of retirement just two weeks ago to run the Colts'



In this Sept. 1, 2011 file photo, Indianapolis Colts quarterback Kerry Collins (5) throws a pass against the Cincinnati Bengals during the first half of an NFL football game in Cincinnati.

Associated Press

pass-heavy offense, has been preparing as though he would start.

"I expect to run the offense, bottom line," he said. "Make plays when they're there, be smart with the ball, make good reads, good decisions, get us into the right plays when the situation calls for it. I'm going into this week

thinking I'm going to run the offense as best I can." Defensive end Dwight Freeney said the Colts still expect to play at a championship level.

"Obviously, we're not used to not having him (Manning) out there," Freeney said. "He's a great player. There are 52 other guys on the team, and

one guy does not win the game."

During his streak, the 35-year-old Manning has led the Colts to 11 playoff appearances, 11 double-digit win seasons, eight division crowns, two AFC titles and the first Super Bowl championship in the franchise's Indianapolis era.

Manning had been listed as doubtful for the game, but losing him for any time is a shock to Indy fans, not to mention his teammates. Not only has the four-time NFL MVP never missed a start, he's rarely missed practice.

Manning sat out one week of training camp in 1998 before signing his rookie contract. A decade later, he missed all of training camp in 2008 because he underwent surgery twice to remove an infected bursa sac from his left knee.

The only other time his playing status was in doubt was 2001 after he was injured at Minnesota in a preseason game.

He had always made it back for game day. Not this time.

"To say I am disappointed in not being able to play is an understatement," Manning said in a statement released by the team. "The best part about football is being out there on the field playing with my teammates. It will be tough not to be out there playing for the organization and our fans. I simply am not healthy enough to play, and I am doing everything I can to get my health back. The team will do fine without me, and I know for sure that I will miss them much more than they miss me."

Manning had neck surgery to repair a nerve May 23, but the recovery has taken much longer than the expected 6-8 weeks that would have put him back on the field for the start of training camp. Instead, he started camp on the physically unable to perform list and wasn't activated until last Monday. He did limited work at practice last week, which led to complaints about back pain. The team issued a statement saying that team doctors had re-evaluated Manning and instructed him to stop practicing while he undergoes more tests. No additional surgery has been scheduled.

Caldwell said the bad news only became clear Wednesday.

"We always knew it was a chance," he said. "That's what doubtful means. You always have to prepare for the worst and hope for the best."

Caldwell said he had confidence in Collins, who was lured out of retirement by the Colts as Manning's recovery dragged on.

"The guy's thrown for 40,000 yards. He can throw the ball," Caldwell said.

Collins has made 177 career starts and been to two Pro Bowls. He took the Carolina Panthers to the 1996 NFC Championship game and the New York Giants to the Super Bowl after the 2000 season. □

NL Roundup

Phillies win, extend lead over Braves

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The Philadelphia Phillies extended their lead over Atlanta atop the National League East to 9-1/2 games by beating the Braves 6-3 on Tuesday.

The major league-leading Phillies reduced their magic number — the combination of their wins and Atlanta's losses — for clinching a fifth straight division title to 14 games. They have won at least 90 games in four consecutive seasons for the first time in franchise history.

Rookie starter Vance Worley (11-1) allowed two runs, striking out six to earn his ninth straight win. The Phillies have won Worley's last 14 starts. That's the most for a rookie since 1970. It's also the most for any Phillies pitcher since the team won 15 straight starts by Steve Carlton in 1972.

Braves starter Tim Hudson (14-9) gave up four runs in six innings.

***Cardinals 4, Brewers 2**

In St. Louis, Kyle Lohse threw six scoreless innings to guide St. Louis to victory over Milwaukee.

Lohse (13-8), who leads the Cardinals in victories, struck out six. His scheduled start was pushed back two days after a poor performance in his previous outing.

Jon Jay and Matt Holliday both hit homers for St. Louis off Milwaukee starter Yovanni Gallardo (15-10), who has given up six long shots in his past 10-2/3 innings, all of which were against the Cardinals. He conceded three runs in six innings.

The Brewers' comfortable lead over the Cardinals in the NL Central was trimmed to 9-1/2 games.

***Rockies 8, Diamondbacks 3**

In Denver, Colorado piled on seven runs with two outs in the eighth inning, overwhelming Arizona.

Troy Tulowitzki homered,



Philadelphia Phillies Placido Polanco slides under Atlanta Braves shortstop Alex Gonzalez whose throw to first was late allowing Chase Utley a base hit during the seventh inning of a baseball game with the Atlanta Braves, Tuesday, Sept. 6, 2011, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

Seth Smith tripled twice, while Jordan Pacheco and Carlos Gonzalez had two hits apiece for the Rockies. Arizona led 3-1 and appeared headed to its fourth straight win when the

Rockies came alive in the eighth. With a man on first, Mark Ellis singled to left and Carlos Gonzalez knocked in the go-ahead run with a single off David Hernandez (3-3). □

Hockey in shock after Russian jet crash kills 43

LYNN BERRY

Associated Press

TUNOSHNA, Russia (AP) — A private Russian jet carrying a top ice hockey team slammed into a riverbank moments after takeoff Wednesday, killing at least 43 people in one of the worst plane crashes ever involving a sports team. Two other people on board were critically injured.

The plane was carrying the team from Yaroslavl to Minsk, the capital of Belarus, where they were to play Thursday against Dinamo Minsk in the opening game of the Kontinental Hockey League season. It had 45 people on board, including 37 passengers and eight crew, the ministry said. Officials said Russian player Alexander Galimov sur-

sioner Gary Bettman said in a statement.

The crash comes on top of an already mournful year for the NHL in which three of the league's enforcers were found dead: Derek Boogaard, Rick Rypien and recently retired Wade Belak.

The cause of Wednesday's crash was not immediately apparent, but Rus-

Resident Irina Prakhova saw the plane going down then heard a loud bang.

"It was wobbling in flight, it was clear that something was wrong," said Prakhova. "I saw them pulling bodies to the shore, some still in their seats with seatbelts on."

More than 2,000 mourning fans wearing jerseys and scarves and waving team flags gathered in the evening outside Lokomotiv's stadium in Yaroslavl to pay their respects. Riot police stood guard as fans chanted sport songs in honor of the dead athletes.

Yaroslavl governor Sergei Vakhrukov promised the crowd that the Lokomotiv team would be rebuilt from scratch, prompting anger from some fans at a perceived lack of respect for the dead.

Lokomotiv is a leading force in Russian hockey and came third in the KHL last year. It was also a three-time Russian League champion in 1997, 2002 and 2003. McCrimmon, who took over as coach in May, was most recently an assistant coach with the Detroit Red Wings, and played for years in the NHL for Boston, Philadelphia, Detroit, Calgary, Hartford and Phoenix.

"We will do our best to ensure that hockey in Yaroslavl does not die, and that it continues to live for the people that were on that plane," said Russian Ice Hockey Federation President Vladislav Tretyak.

A cup game between hockey teams Salavat Yul'ev and Atlant in the central Russian city of Ufa was called off in mid-match after news of the crash was announced. Russian television showed an empty arena in Ufa as grief-stricken fans abandoned the stadium. The KHL is an international club league of teams from Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Latvia and Slovakia. Russia was hoping to showcase Yaroslavl as a modern and vibrant city this week at an international forum attended by heads of state, including Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, so the crash came as a particularly bitter blow. □

Capello: 'Impossible' to sort out players' heads

ROB HARRIS

AP Sports Writer

LONDON (AP) — Fabio Capello believes England players are still struggling with a problem in their heads that is proving "impossible" to solve.

The 65-year-old coach was frustrated by England's dismal display in European Championship qualifying Tuesday when the fourth-ranked team labored to a 1-0 victory over Wales, ranked 117th.

Capello conceded he could tell even before kick-off that his players would struggle based on how apprehensive they looked in the pre-match warmup at Wembley Stadium.

The admission came in a testy exchange with a small group of reporters in the wake of the Wales match. Asked to explain the unconvincing display and lack of cutting edge, the Italian coach said in broken English: "Sometimes in my career during the warmup I understood at lot of what really happens on the pitch (during the match)."

What he understood had to be teased out of Capello, who is paid a reported six million pounds (\$10 million) a year to produce England's first trophy since the 1966 World Cup. Shortly after he took the England job in 2008, Capello said one of his main tasks would be to make the players mentally stronger.

Apparently, that hasn't changed.

Asked why he could not find a solution back in the dressing room before the match, Capello replied: "I tried to do, I spoke with the players but it is impossible the team that I saw to change. It is impossible." Pressed on the problem, Capello said the main issue is still a lack of confidence. "It was not to change the shirt," Capello said, and then pointed to his head. "Here is the problem." □



Wreckage of Russian Yak-42 jet, carrying a top ice hockey team, seen near the city of Yaroslavl, on the Volga River about 150 miles northeast of Moscow, Russia, Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2011.

Associated Press

Both Russia and the world of hockey were left stunned by the deaths of so many international stars in one catastrophic event. The International Ice Hockey Federation said 27 players of the Lokomotiv Yaroslavl team were killed, along with 2 coaches and 7 club officials.

Russian NHL star Alex Ovechkin tweeted: "I'm in shock!!!!!!R.I.P ..."

The Russian Emergency Situations Ministry said the Yak-42 plane crashed into the shores of the Volga River immediately after leaving the airport near the western city of Yaroslavl, 150 miles (240 kilometers) northeast of Moscow. The weather was sunny and clear at the time. Russian media said the plane struggled to gain altitude and then crashed into a signal tower, shattering into pieces.

Russian television showed a flaming fragment of the plane in the river as divers worked feverishly to recover bodies.

vived the crash along with a crewmember.

"Their state of health is very grave. But there is still some hope," said Alexander Degyatryov, chief doctor at Yaroslavl's Solovyov Hospital.

Among the dead were Lokomotiv coach and NHL veteran Brad McCrimmon, a Canadian, as well as Pavol Demitra, who played for the St. Louis Blues and the Vancouver Canucks and was the Slovakian national team captain. Also killed were Czech players Josef Vasicek, Karel Rachunek and Jan Marek, Swedish goalie Stefan Liv, Latvian defenseman Karlis Skrastins and defenseman Ruslan Salei of Belarus, the Emergency Ministry said.

"Though it occurred thousands of miles away from our home arenas, this tragedy represents a catastrophic loss to the hockey world — including the NHL family, which lost so many fathers, sons, teammates and friends," NHL Commis-

sioner Gary Bettman said in a statement. The plane was built in 1993 and belonged to a small Moscow-based Yak Service company.

In recent years, Russia and the other former Soviet republics have had some of the world's worst air traffic safety records. Experts blame the poor safety record on the age of the aircraft, weak government controls, poor pilot training and a cost-cutting mentality. Swarms of police and rescue crews rushed to Tunoshna, a ramshackle village with a blue-domed church on the banks of the Volga River 10 miles (16 kilometers) east of Yaroslavl. One of the plane's engines could be seen poking out of the river and a flotilla of boats combed the water for bodies. Divers struggled to heft the bodies of large, strong athletes in stretchers up the muddy, steep riverbank.

CDC data:

Adult smoking rate edges down slightly

LINDSEY TANNER
AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Fewer U.S. adults are smoking and those who do light up are smoking fewer cigarettes each day, but the trend is weaker than the government had hoped.

According to a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report released Tuesday, 19.3 percent of adults said they smoked last year, down from about 21 percent in 2005. The rate for smoking 30 or more cigarettes daily dropped to about 8 percent from almost 13 percent during the same time period.

The report only compared last year with 2005 and says the decline means 3 million fewer adults were smoking. The CDC earlier reported that the 2009 rate was 20.6 percent and rates fluctuated during the five-year period.

The five-year decline was much slower than a drop seen over the previous 40 years, said Dr. Thomas Frieden, director of the Atlanta-based agency. He said any decline is a good step, but also said tobacco use remains a significant health burden.

"About half of all smokers will be killed by tobacco if they don't quit," Frieden said during a news briefing. "You don't have to be a heavy smoker or a long-time smoker to get a smoking-related disease or have a heart attack or asthma attack," Frieden said. "The sooner you quit smoking, the sooner your body can begin to heal."

The 2010 numbers are based partly on face-to-face interviews with almost 27,000 Americans aged 18 and older.

Increases in federal and state taxes on cigarettes and new clean air laws are among reasons for the drop, said Dr. Tim McAfee,

Frieden said evidence from states with strong anti-smoking programs show that tobacco control can be effective. Rates are far below the national average in states with the strongest tobacco control programs, he noted. States with the lowest rates are



Fewer U.S. adults are smoking and those who do light up are smoking fewer cigarettes each day, but the trend is weaker than the government had hoped.

director of the CDC's office on smoking and health.

Those positive trends have been offset by efforts from the tobacco industry, including offering discounts to consumers, McAfee said. If the slowed rate of decline continues, adult smoking rates will reach 17 percent by 2020, far higher than the government's goal of no more than 12 percent, the CDC report said.

Government efforts to further reduce smoking rates include proposed graphic cigarette packaging labels, which are being challenged in court by the tobacco industry.

Utah, at 9 percent, and California, 12 percent, the CDC report found. In a statement, American Heart Association CEO Nancy Brown said the report shows some successes but also continued disparities. Smoking was most common among low-income, less educated adults and among American Indians and Alaska natives.

Matthew Meyers, president of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, a Washington-based advocacy group, said in a statement that it's too soon to declare victory when nearly one in five adults still smokes. □



Beginning a fitness regimen requires some knowledge of your current strengths and weaknesses so that your plan of action addresses those needs.

How to start up a new exercise program safely

Marjie Gilliam
© 2011 Cox Newspapers

Q: I've finally started going to the gym again and plan to exercise at least every other day. Any advice?

A: Getting the most out of an exercise program requires some knowledge of your current strengths and weaknesses so that your plan of action addresses those needs. First and foremost, if you have any health concerns/conditions or are unaccustomed to physical activity it is in your best interest to get clearance from your doctor. The four components of a well-rounded exercise program are heart-healthy cardiovascular (aerobic) exercise, resistance (strength) training for strong muscles and bones, flexibility training (stretching) and exercises to improve balance. This may sound like a lot, but it can be as simple as taking a half-hour out of your day to work major muscle groups with dumbbells or machines, or even just your own body weight, and taking a brisk walk.

For flexibility, a few minutes of gentle stretching after working out can be easily incorporated, as can a few balance exercises such as walking heel to toe or standing on one foot. Options are to do an entire workout every other day, or focus on different components on different days. How many days per week are best for increasing fitness levels? One size does not fit all when it comes to the number of days per week to exercise, but

generally for beginners, strength training two to three times weekly and performing 30 minutes of low- to no-impact aerobic exercise most days of the week provide a safe starting point from which to build. Frequency can also vary depending on the intensity of the workout and the number of exercises performed. It is important to allow a day or two of rest before training the same muscle groups again. The more intense the workout, the more recovery the muscles need.

If working different muscle groups on different days, alternating between these workouts is acceptable. Other factors that influence how often to work out include current state of health (for example, medical conditions, joint problems, or prior injuries) degree of exercise experience (beginner, intermediate or advanced) and individual goals. How can you stay motivated and avoid hitting a plateau? The answer is to continue to set new attainable challenges up for yourself.

A plateau is your body's way of letting you know that it is getting stale, that it is no longer being challenged enough to allow for further progress. If you have already reached a "been there, done that" point, instead of giving yourself permission to use this as an excuse to throw in the towel, think of it as your guide to knowing that it is time to make your workout to the next level. □

Red Cross warns of cholera epidemic in Chad

GENEVA (AP) — The Red Cross says Chad faces a cholera epidemic with 12,713 cases and 364 deaths recorded so far this year. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies says cholera has spread to 33 of Chad's 62 districts and

the number of cases could double within a few weeks in the fall rainy season.

Cholera is a waterborne infection that is easily preventable with clean water and sanitation.

The humanitarian aid group told reporters Wednesday in Geneva its main concern

is to prevent cholera from spreading to more regions of the country and to stop it reaching refugee camps along the Sudanese border.

The IFRC said it is also worried about cholera outbreaks in Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria. □

What about an early French dinner?

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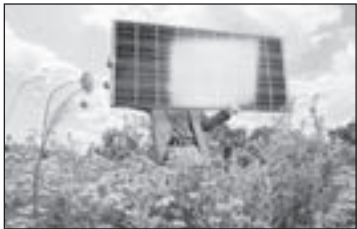
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Company to build tech 'ghost town'



A Washington, D.C.-based technology company announced plans to build a 'ghost town' in N.M. to test everything from renewable energy innovations to intelligent traffic systems, next-generation wireless networks and smart-grid cyber security systems.

JERI CLAUSING
Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico (AP) — New Mexico, home to several of the nation's premier scientific, nuclear and military institutions, is planning to take part in an unprecedented science project — a 20-square-mile (50-square-kilometer) model of a small U.S. city.

A Washington, D.C.-based technology company announced plans Tuesday to build the state's newest ghost town to test everything from renewable energy innovations to intelligent traffic systems, next-generation wireless networks and smart-grid cyber security systems.

Pegasus Global Holdings chief executive officer, Bob Brumley, says the \$200 million project, known as The Center, will be a first of its kind in the U.S., creating a place for scientists at the state's universities, federal labs and military installations to test their innovations for upgrading cities to 21st century, green technology and infrastructure in a real world setting. □

Review: Seeking a keyboard for the iPad

By **RACHEL METZ**
AP Technology Writer
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

The great thing about using an iPad is that you can tote around a skinny device instead of lugging your laptop. The bad thing is that the iPad's virtual keyboard isn't great for extended typing sessions. It's fine for dashing off emails, but I wouldn't use it to type up this article.

Fortunately, a market has sprung up to solve this problem: physical keyboards that work with the iPad, either on their own or as part of iPad cases. I tested four of them, and I wrote this review using one.

These devices all had several things going for them. All were easy to connect with the iPad, either wirelessly via Bluetooth or, in the case of Apple's physical keyboard, a dock connector. They all had a row of buttons to do such things as control music playback or switch to the home screen.



This Sept. 6, 2011 photo shows the Belkin Keyboard Folio for Apple iPad 2 during a product review in San Francisco.
(AP Photo/Jeff Chiu)

But some of them were bulky, difficult to type on or awkward to set up. And none of them worked for scrolling through Web pages.

Here's a look at the ones I tried.

Belkin Keyboard Folio for iPad 2 (\$100):

The Keyboard Folio's ma-

terial felt cheap, though it did look as if it might be somewhat stain resistant. The process for propping up the iPad or putting it away was complicated. The case was bulky when folded up, too.

Of all the ones I tested, the Keyboard Folio had the most options for viewing angles, which I appreciated. But I could only use it in landscape mode, not turned like a skyscraper. It also took up the most space of the four I tested — from about 9 inches to more than a foot, depending on how I had it angled. This made it difficult to use in a tight space.

I appreciated its decent-sized keyboard, which included dedicated buttons for the "at" symbol and ".com." It felt a bit cramped at first, but it was second only to Apple's full-sized keyboard dock when it came to ease of use. Because of this, I used the Keyboard Folio to type up this review. □

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An employee leaves a Yahoo headquarters building in Sunnyvale, Calif. Carol Bartz was fired from Yahoo after two and a half years as CEO. Tim Morse, the company's chief financial officer, was named interim CEO.

(AP Photo/Paul Sakuma, File)

It's déjà vu for Yahoo as it faces uncertain future

© 2011 SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

By Casey Newton

A day after Yahoo's board ousted Carol Bartz as CEO, observers of the Sunnyvale company were asking themselves a familiar question: What next?

With Bartz's 30-month effort to revitalize the flagging Internet pioneer failing to meet with the board's approval, Yahoo finds itself in a position not unlike the one it did before they brought her in as CEO: subject to fervent speculation that it will be sold, taken private, broken up, merged, or some combination of options.

In 2008, before Bartz was recruited from Autodesk, Yahoo resisted a very public \$44.6 billion takeover effort from Microsoft. The company had gone through three CEOs in three years as it attempted to align the various threads of its business: an online publishing empire that hosts some of the web's most popular sites on news, sports and finance, and an advertising business rapidly losing ground to rising giants like Google and Facebook.

Three years later, little has changed: Yahoo remains a popular web destination, with more than half a billion users each month. But advertising revenues continue to decline, and the amount of time U.S. visitors spend on Yahoo sites dropped by a third since Bartz took over, according to comScore Inc.

The biggest difference from 2008: Yahoo investments in Chinese and Japanese Internet service providers have paid off, and its stakes are valued at roughly \$16 billion. With a stock price that is a little over half what it was when Microsoft launched its takeover bid, Yahoo could make for an attractive target, analysts said.

Even before the shakeup at the top, media executive Peter Chernin approached Yahoo's board earlier this year about an acquisition, the Wall Street Journal has reported. Bartz's firing was accompanied by the formation of a leadership council that is expected to review all options for the company's future, including a sale. Whether the company is sold or taken private will depend largely on how easily potential suitors believe they can monetize the company's assets, analysts said.

The more complicated the picture, the more likely it is that Yahoo pegs its hopes on another turnaround.

"If there's money to be made there, we should expect private equity to take it private, disassemble it and try to make money that way," said Laura Martin, an analyst at Needham & Co. "If it's unclear you can make a lot of money, then I think we will get a new person running it." Investors clearly sense an opportunity -- Yahoo's stock increased more than 5 percent on Wednesday as news of Bartz's firing sunk in. □

Stocks surge after Germany upholds bailout plan

DAVID K. RANDALL
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A broad rally broke a three-day losing streak in the stock market Wednesday as fears about Europe's debt crisis ebbed.

Stocks rose sharply after a German court backed the country's role in bailing out other European nations. The Dow Jones industrial average jumped 200 points in the first hour of trading and continued to climb throughout the day, ending up 275 points.

The afternoon gains came after Italy's Senate approved a deficit-cutting package and the Federal Reserve reported that U.S. business conditions are improving.

The Dow and other U.S. indexes fell over the previous three days on worries over weakness in the U.S. job market and concerns that Europe's debt woes could lead to a global economic recession.

"The market has been pricing in an out-and-out recession, so any hints that policy issues might be solved is a plus," said Brian Gendreau, market strategist at Cetera Financial Group.

The Dow surged 275.56 points, or 2.5 percent, to close at 11,414.86. All 30 stocks in the Dow average rose.

The Standard and Poor's 500 index jumped 33.38, or 2.9 percent, to 1,198.62. All 10 company groups that make up the S&P index rose. The Nasdaq composite shot up 75.11, or 3 percent, to 2,548.94.

The German court ruling also pushed the prices of Treasury securities lower as investors were more willing to hold risky assets like stocks.

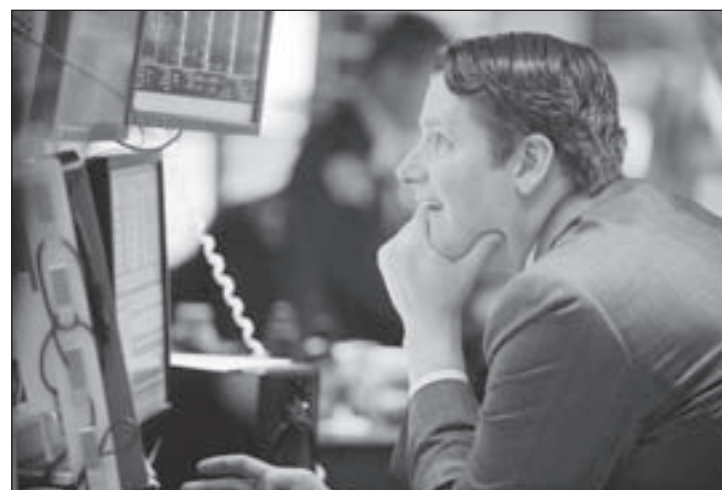
Treasury prices have been rising over the past week, sending their yields lower, as demand for lower-risk investments increased.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 2.05 percent. Its price fell 50 cents per \$100 invested.

The yield traded at 1.97 percent late Tuesday. On Monday it fell to 1.91 percent, the lowest since the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis began

keeping daily records in 1962. Gold, another traditional safe haven, fell \$56, or 3 percent, to \$1,817 an ounce. It closed at \$1,891 on Aug. 22. Historically low Treasury rates are prompting some institutional investors to see stocks as a better value. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note began plunging

company. Bank of America jumped 7 percent, to \$7.48, after the bank announced a management reorganization that will result in two top officers leaving. The changes were seen as one of chief executive Brian Moynihan's most dramatic moves to reshape the embattled bank. Bank of America shares have fallen



Gregg Maloney of Barclays Capital, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Global stocks rebounded Wednesday, Sept. 7, from the previous day's steep sell-off as investor sentiment was buoyed by a German court decision backing the country's participation in European bailouts. The Swiss franc, meanwhile, hovered around the level it was pegged at.

(AP Photo/Henny Ray Abrams)

from just over 3 percent on July 27 to 2.2 percent by the end of August. Investors were piling into lower-risk assets as the stock market swung wildly. The yield has hovered around 2 percent this week. An investor who buys the S&P 500 index, meanwhile, earns a 2.38 percent yield in the form of dividends.

"Market sentiment has actually been worse than economic data lately, and now you are seeing institutional investors saying, 'I can get a better yield from the S&P 500 than I can from a 10-year Treasury,'" said Howard Ward, portfolio manager of the GAMCO Growth Fund.

Yahoo and Bank of America rose sharply after announcing the departures of key executives after the market closed Tuesday. Yahoo gained 5 percent, to \$13.61, after announcing that CEO Carol Bartz had been fired. Some analysts said the move made the company a takeover target. Bartz spent nearly three years steering the

48 percent this year through Tuesday, compared with a 7 percent drop in the S&P 500 index.

Financial companies were the top performing group in the S&P 500 index. JP Morgan Chase & Co., Goldman Sachs and Wells Fargo each rose more than 3 percent.

A Federal Reserve survey found that the economy grew modestly in its 12 bank regions in July and August as consumers spent more.

Nine stocks rose for every one that fell on the New York Stock Exchange. Volume was below average at 3.9 billion shares. □



AP Sources: UAW, Ford, Chrysler far apart in talks

TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Ford, Chrysler and the United Auto Workers remain far apart in labor talks with just a week left before their contracts expire, two people briefed on the talks said Wednesday.

Negotiators for the two companies and the union have started serious talks on wages in the past few days, even though the union's contracts with all three Detroit carmakers expire just before midnight (0400 GMT) on Sept. 14, the people said.

General Motors Co., on the other hand, has been talking pay with the union for about two weeks and is ahead of its crosstown rivals, said another person briefed on the talks. All three people asked not to be identified because the companies and union have agreed to keep negotiations private.

Contracts between the UAW and Detroit's automakers are widely followed because they set the wag-

es for about 111,000 auto workers nationwide. They also set the bar for wages at auto parts companies and other manufacturers.

spite little movement on wages with Chrysler Group LLC and Ford Motor Co., two of the people said. The lack of progress raises the



A 2012 Ford Focus SEL Sedan, left, and a 2012 Ford Fiesta SE are displayed at the Maroone Ford of Miami dealership in Miami. Ford, Chrysler and the United Auto Workers remain far apart in labor talks with just a week left before their contracts expire, two people briefed on the talks said Wednesday.

(AP Photo/Wilfredo Lee)

This year's talks are the first since Chrysler and GM accepted government aid and emerged from bankruptcy protection in 2009. So far, talks between the union and the companies have been amicable, de-

possibility that the contracts could be extended beyond next week's deadline. Union spokeswoman Michele Martin said talks with all three companies are making progress, but she declined to give details.

Smashburger's to open in Mideast

DENVER (AP) — A Denver-based restaurant chain specializing in burgers has found two franchise partners for restaurants in Kuwait, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, with the first locations expected to open over the next year, the company said Wednesday.

The locations are Smashburger's first expansion outside the U.S.

Smashburger said it was working with the Bahrain-based commercial development firm Georgetown Advisors to open six Smashburger locations in Kuwait and three in Bahrain, most likely in malls and entertainment centers.

It was partnering with the Al Musbah Group to open eight airport locations in Saudi Arabia. The Al Musbah Group also operates stores for other brands, including Cinnabon.

Smashburger chief executive, Dave Prokupek, said



A Denver-based restaurant chain specializing in burgers has found two franchise partners for restaurants in Kuwait, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, the company said Wednesday. The locations are Smashburger's first expansion outside the U.S.

Kuwait, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia provide markets with strong appetites for restaurant concepts successful in the United States. The chain tailors its menus to local markets to offer burgers, shakes and side items. Prokupek expected the overseas menus might be altered for cultural or religious reasons, but the overall color scheme, look and ambience of the res-

taurants would keep with Smashburger's brand. The privately-held Smashburger, which has 118 U.S. stores, has been growing by opening a mix of corporate, joint venture and franchise locations in high-traffic areas where people work and live.

The company also was looking to open locations in Canada and the United Kingdom. □

Both sides must reach agreements and union members must vote on the deals before new contracts can take effect.

UAW President Bob King has said he'd like to reach agreements with the companies before the contracts expire. But during the last round of contract talks in 2007, the union kept working under contract extensions until it reached deals with the companies

in October and November. King has said both sides are discussing profit sharing instead of the traditional hourly pay raises. Payments tied to profits would cut the companies' fixed costs and give workers an interest in seeing them make money. In exchange, he wants to raise the pay of entry level workers who now make \$14 to \$16 per hour, about half the pay of a longtime factory worker. □

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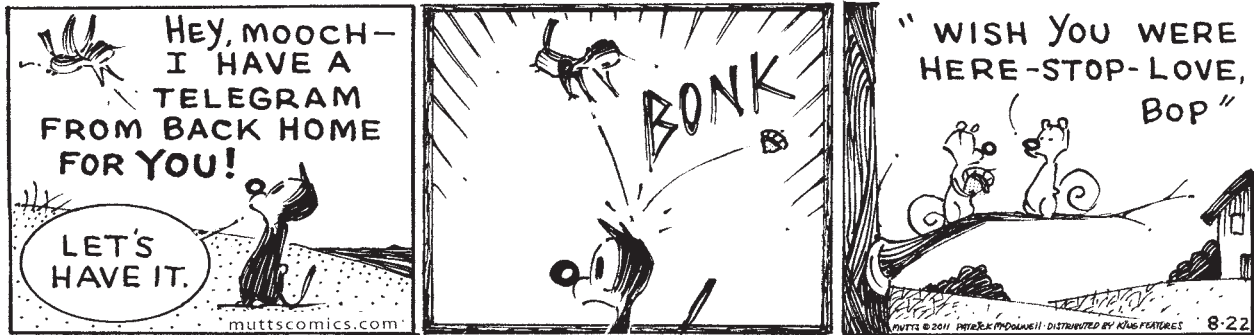
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<p>NEW THIS WEEK!</p> <p>THE SMURFS</p> <p>Hank Azaria Neil Patrick Harris</p> <p>With Spanish Subtitles</p> <p>Mon - Fri 4:45 Sat, Sun & Hol 2:30 / 4:45 3D Sat, Sun & Hol 3:00</p>	<p>NEW THIS WEEK!</p> <p>CRAZY STUPID LOVE</p> <p>Steve Carell Ryan Gosling</p> <p>With Spanish Subtitles</p> <p>Mon - Thurs 4:15 / 6:45 / 9:15 Fri 4:15 / 6:45 / 9:15 / 11:45 Sat 1:45 / 4:15 / 6:45 / 9:15 / 11:45 Sun & Hol 1:45 / 4:15 / 6:45 / 9:15</p>
<p>NEW THIS WEEK!</p> <p>RISE OF THE PLANET OF THE APES</p> <p>James Franco Freida Pinto</p> <p>With Spanish Subtitles</p> <p>Mon - Thurs 7:00 / 9:20 Fri - Sat 7:00 / 9:20 / 11:40 Sun & Hol 7:00 / 9:20</p>	<p>NEW THIS WEEK!</p> <p>COLOMBIANA</p> <p>Zoe Saldana Michael Vartan</p> <p>Mon - Thurs 4:30 / 6:55 / 9:20 Fri 4:30 / 6:55 / 9:20 / 11:45 Sat 2:10 / 4:30 / 6:55 / 9:20 / 11:45 Sun & Hol 2:10 / 4:30 / 6:55 / 9:20</p>

STARTING NEXT WEEK SEPTEMBER 15 - CONTAGION • STRAW DOGS

Mutts



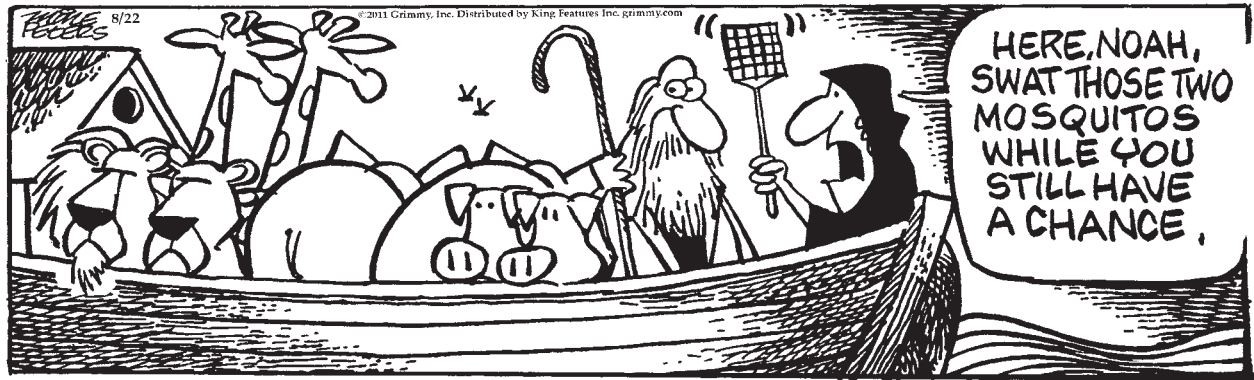
6 Chix



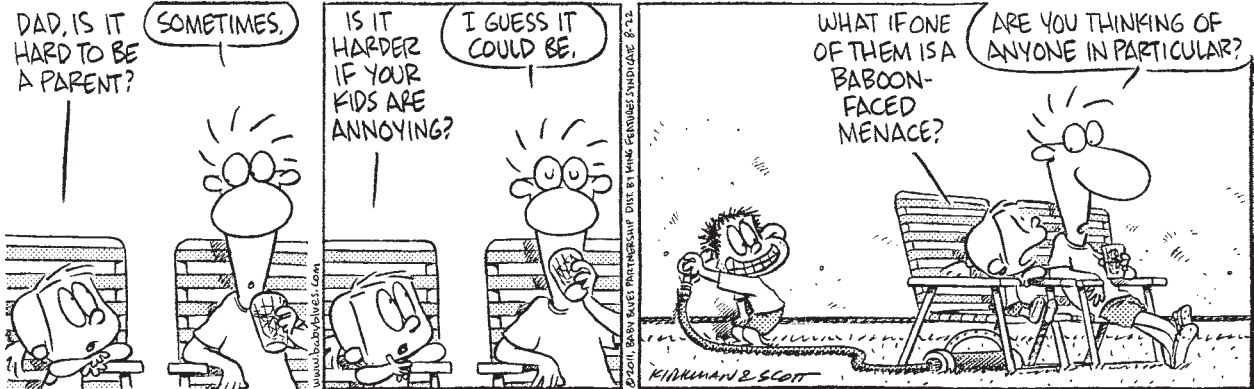
Blondie



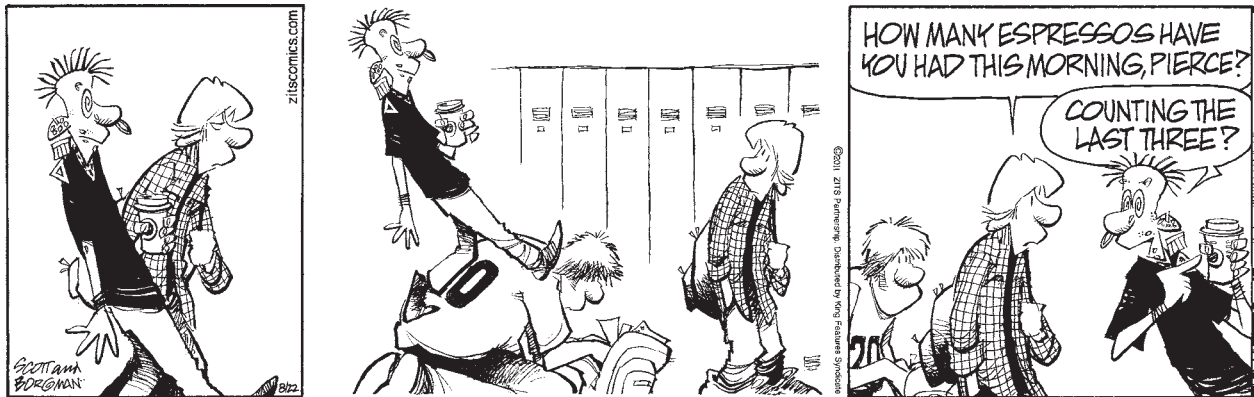
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	4				9	7	6	
8				4			5	
			1	5	6			3
6		1				4		9
	9			2			1	
4		3				2		8
5			7	1	4			
	6			3				7
	1	7	9				2	

Difficulty Level ★

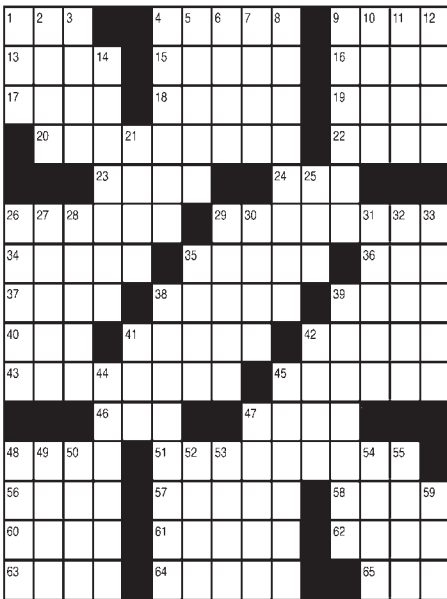
8/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

2	3	7	8	4	6	1	5	9
8	4	9	1	7	5	3	6	2
1	5	6	9	2	3	8	4	7
6	8	5	3	1	9	7	2	4
4	1	2	6	5	7	9	3	8
7	9	3	2	8	4	6	1	5
5	7	1	4	6	8	2	9	3
9	6	8	5	3	2	4	7	1
3	2	4	7	9	1	5	8	6

ACROSS

- 1 Zodiac lion
- 4 Years; longs
- 9 Flip-; reverse one's position
- 13 Upper limbs
- 15 "Trick or _!"
- 16 Helper
- 17 Cheese with a whitish rind
- 18 Kid around with
- 19 Cots and cribs
- 20 Oscar or Emmy
- 22 Fall leaf color
- 23 Didn't float
- 24 Hawaiian taro root food
- 26 Enjoy a drink
- 29 Puncturing
- 34 Is the front-runner
- 35 Minister's home
- 36 Greek "T"
- 37 _ of Wight
- 38 Sarcastic insult
- 39 One of the 12 tribes of Israel
- 40 Inquire
- 41 Corridors
- 42 Caan or Garner
- 43 Reading disorder
- 45 Scuffle; brawl
- 46 Mischievous tot
- 47 Plate
- 48 Pond growth
- 51 Buenos Aires' nation
- 56 Fishhook, for one
- 57 Tales
- 58 Zero
- 60 Malicious
- 61 Wipe away
- 62 Saucer-shaped bell
- 63 Knighted lady
- 64 Nonconformist
- 65 Old horse



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

8/22/11

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

T	A	S	T	E	E	S	P	Y	S	H	U	N	
O	C	E	A	N	L	U	R	E	H	O	L	E	
U	N	C	U	T	A	D	O	S	O	R	C	A	
R	E	T	R	E	A	T	S	M	U	R	D	E	R
		U	R	G	E	B	A	N	T	E	R	S	
C	H	I	S	E	L	P	A	N	D	A			
R	O	T	D	O	P	E	S	O	G	D	E	N	
A	B	E	D	W	A	C	K	Y	E	U	R	O	
G	O	M	E	R	V	A	S	E	S	E	G	O	
		S	I	R	E	N	M	U	T	T	O	N	
S	C	E	P	T	E	R	G	E	N				
M	A	N	I	A	C	V	E	N	D	E	T	T	
A	N	T	S	E	P	I	C	O	T	H	E	R	
C	O	R	E	S	O	A	K	W	H	I	S	T	
K	E	Y	S	S	I	L	O	N	E	S	T		

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8/22/11

- 42 Fair; deserved
- 44 Legally responsible
- 45 Shiny stuff on a Christmas tree
- 47 Thickheaded
- 48 Sick; too ill to be up
- 49 Volcanic output
- 50 Stern; gloomy
- 52 Unusual
- 53 Snatch
- 54 Lunchtime
- 55 Ballerina
- 59 Has on one's face; is humiliated

Today in History

The Associated Press
Today is Thursday, September 8, the 251st day of 2011. There are 114 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

1494 - France's King Charles VIII enters Turin, Italy, seeking to establish his claim to throne of Naples.

1565 - A Spanish expedition establishes the first permanent European settlement in North America at present-day St. Augustine, Florida.

1664 - The Dutch surrender New Amsterdam to the British, who rename it New York.

1831 - Russia takes Warsaw after two-day battle, and Polish revolt collapses.

1900 - Galveston, Texas, is struck by a hurricane that kills about 6,000 people.

1926 - Germany is admitted to League of Nations. The league was formed to foster international cooperation and world peace.

1934 - Fire aboard luxury liner Morro Castle off New Jersey coast in the United States takes 134 lives.

1939 - U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt declares a "limited national emergency" due to the outbreak of war in Europe.

1941 - The Germans begin an 872-day siege of Leningrad, now St. Petersburg, Russia.

1943 - Allied Commander Dwight D. Eisenhower announces Italy's unconditional surrender in World War II. The Germans take over Rome and northern Italy.

1944 - The first of more than 1,000 German V-2 ballistic missiles land in Britain.

1951 - A peace treaty with Japan is signed by 48 other nations in San Francisco.

1952 - American writer Ernest Hemingway's novel "The Old Man and the Sea" is published.

1954 - Southeast Asia Defense Treaty and Pacific Charter is signed in Manila by Britain, France, United States, Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Thailand and the Philippines.

1972 - Israeli air force, in retaliation for slaying of Israeli athletes at Munich Olympics, attacks 10 Palestinian guerrilla bases and naval in-



Today is Patsy Cline's birthday

stallations in Syria and Lebanon.

1974 - U.S. President Gerald Ford grants an unconditional pardon to former President Richard Nixon.

1979 - Three armed Lebanese surrender to Iranian authorities in Tehran after hijacking an Italian airliner the day before. The hijackers released 175 passengers in Rome and the remaining 35 in Teheran.

1983 - Ten people are killed in anti-government protests in Santiago, as Chileans continue to demand the resignation of President Augusto Pinochet and a return to civilian rule.

1986 - The president of Chile, General Augusto Pinochet, escapes an attempt on his life by rebels.

1988 - About 1 million demonstrators demanding democracy paralyze Yangon, Myanmar. 1991 - Macedonians vote to become the third of six Yugoslav republics to choose independence.

1992 - Nelson Mandela calls for the removal of the homeland ruler whose troops killed 24 protesters, sparking a major confrontation between black and white leaders in South Africa.

1993 - Gunmen in Johannesburg, South Africa kill at least 21 black commuters and wound 25.

1994 - British, French and American troops pull out of Berlin, leaving the city without foreign soldiers for the first time since World War II.

1995 - The former Yugoslav republics agree in Geneva to create a state within Bosnia for rebel Serbs while maintaining the country's unity.

1996 - Okinawa residents vote more than 10-to-1 in favor of a referendum to reduce U.S. military bases on the Japanese island.

1997 - A ferry sinks north of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, drowning an estimated 200 people. 1998 - Serb forces launch a new offensive against separatists in western Kosovo a day after U.S. envoys failed to persuade Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic to halt the attacks.

1999 - The United Nations delays its withdrawal from East Timor out of concern for the safety of some 2,000 East Timorese who have taken refuge in the U.N. compound.

2000 - The head of the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs apologizes for the federal agency's "legacy of racism and inhumanity" that included massacres, forced relocations of tribes and attempts to wipe out native Indian cultures.

2002 - Yugoslavia wins its second straight title at the World Basketball Championships, beating Argentina, 84-77, in overtime in Indianapolis, Indiana. Yugoslavia also eliminated a U.S. team comprised of NBA stars, in a 81-78 upset.

2003 - Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon becomes the first Israeli prime minister to visit India since the two countries established full diplomatic relations in 1992.

2004 - Russia's top general threatens to strike terrorists "in any region of the world," and the Kremlin offers a \$10 million reward for information leading to the killing or capture of Chechnya's top rebel leaders.

2005 - Ukraine President Viktor Yushchenko fires his 7-month-old government amid allegations of corruption, dismissing his dynamic prime minister — the heroine of the Orange Revolution that swept him to power — and accepting the resignation of one of the movement's top financial backers.

2006 - Two bombs tear through a crowd of Muslim worshippers in India who are leaving afternoon prayers at a mosque, killing 31 people and injuring 100. □

Classifieds

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Diamond, Streep among 5 honored by Kennedy Center



U.S. actress Meryl Streep is among those chosen to receive the Kennedy Center Honors this year.

(AP Photo/Michel Spingler)

BRETT ZONGKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Neil Diamond, known for his songs that have become anthems at ballparks and bars, was chosen Wednesday to receive the Kennedy Center Honors this year along with some of the biggest names from Broadway, jazz, classical music and Hollywood. Diamond will be honored with Broadway singer Barbara Cook, cellist Yo-Yo Ma, saxophonist Sonny Rollins and actress Meryl Streep for their contributions to American culture through the arts. President Barack Obama will salute the artists and others will perform in their honor at a ceremony at the Kennedy Center.

Diamond said he was "flying way above sea level" when heard about the honor. "I've watched, and I've seen, and I've even dreamed that someday that would happen to me," he told The Associated Press. "But I never really believed that it would."

Diamond said he used to get distracted when people sang along with him to hits like "Sweet Caroline," which was written for presidential daughter Caroline Kennedy.

"But I realized pretty quickly that it was a compliment and I had no choice in the matter anyway, so I got with the program and just learned to love it," said Diamond, who earlier this year was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

The 70-year-old Diamond also tweeted Wednesday that he was engaged to a woman named Katie — but wouldn't tell AP who she was so that she wouldn't "change her mind."

Streep, 62, has made more than 45 movies and has won two Oscars in a career that spans from Shakespeare to ABBA with the movie "Mamma Mia!" Some of her biggest hits have come in recent years with "The Devil Wears Prada," "Julie & Julia" and "It's Complicated." □



From left, Giada Colagrande, actor Willem Defoe, director Abel Ferrara and actress Sharyn Leigh arrive for the screening of the movie 4:44 Last Day On Earth at the 68th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2011.

(AP Photo/Andrew Medichini)

'4:44' is wake-up call to humanity

SHERI JENNINGS
Associated Press

VENICE, Italy (AP) — Abel Ferrara made his new film "4:44 Last Day on Earth" to serve as a wake-up call to humanity over impending ecological disasters. The movie, by the director of 1992's "Bad Lieutenant," focuses largely on one couple — played by Willem Dafoe and Sharyn Leigh — passing their final hours on Earth as they Skype their goodbyes to loved ones from a New York City high-rise. "The bottom line is this film is about man's destruction of the Earth," Ferrara

told reporters Wednesday in Venice, where the film is being shown in hopes of snaring the top Golden Lion prize later this week. "This isn't about a meteorite, this isn't ... some horror show. This is about humanity not coming to terms with its carbon footprint," the director said. "It's on us. It's our responsibility." The time in the title is the exact hour before dawn when humanity ceases to exist. The exact calamity which befalls Earth's citizens isn't ever spelled out, although there is an "ozone-hole" theme.

At one point, viewers see, as a backdrop, an image of environmental advocate and former U.S. Vice President Al Gore projected on large screen TV giving an interview.

"We reached out to Al, we reached out to Gore, definitely," Ferrara said. In the movie, the couple spends some of their last hours passionately embracing, as they alternate Skyping with friends and loved ones. When Leigh's character calls her mother on Skype, the closing of the laptop lid represents a final goodbye. □

Toronto film fest mixes stars, music, Oscar bait

DAVID GERMAIN
AP Movie Writer

TORONTO (AP) — There's a broader vibe than the usual Hollywood A-listers this year at the Toronto International Film Festival, one of the world's top cinema showcases and a prelude for contenders at the Academy Awards. Stars such as George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Rachel Weisz, Michelle Williams, Glenn Close, Robert De Niro and Viggo Mortensen are on the guest list for the 11-day festival that opens Thursday with an unusually heavy emphasis on music and documentaries. Pitt is on hand for the premiere of "Moneyball," a film he has been trying to bring to the screen for years as both star and producer. Directed by Bennett Miller ("Capote"),

"Moneyball" casts Pitt as Oakland A's general manager Billy Beane, who rebuilt his team on a shoestring budget applying a fresh statistical approach to find underappreciated players.

"Baseball had relied on a form of statistics that just hadn't been questioned, and this discovery that had been around for 30 years but had been dismissed showed that there's much more to it," Pitt said. "There's a lot of talented people out there who aren't being used."

Pitt's "Ocean's Eleven" pal Clooney stars in two Toronto films, the family drama "The Descendants" from director Alexander Payne ("Sideways") and his own latest directing effort, the political saga "The Ides of March," in which he plays a presidential candidate opposite Ryan Gosling as an ambitious press secretary. □



In this image released by the Toronto Film Festival, George Clooney, left, and Shailene Woodley are shown in a scene from the film "The Descendants."

(AP Photo/Toronto Film Festival)

Ladies of US pop winning with wacky, weird tactics

MESFIN FEKADU
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Whether it is being encased in an egg or wearing slabs of meat, there never is a question whether Lady Gaga will make a spectacle of herself at an awards show; the only question is just what kind.

So when the MTV Video Music Awards came around this year, Gaga did not disappoint. Although she dressed somewhat conservatively in short black hair, a dingy white T-shirt, a black blazer and pants, it was whom she embodied that made headlines: a man, whom she called Jo Calderone. The temporary gender switch marked yet another act in Gaga's strange pop odyssey.

What actually made the VMAs so noteworthy, however, was that Gaga was not the only oddity who graced the stage. In one corner there was Katy Perry, sporting pink hair and a giant yellow cube on top of her head. And then there was Nicki Minaj, who wore a colorful surgical mask, a rainbow-colored wig, a mini-tutu made out of cubic designs, with an attached string of stuffed toys. It was not too long ago that pop's top ladies were likely to try to out-sex each other, from plunging necklines to gyrating stage performances.

But Gaga, Minaj and Perry are part of a group of contemporary pop stars who are finding success by defying the conventional definition of sexiness with oddball tactics and wacky outfits, recalling pop stars from the past, from Cyndi Lauper to Annie Lennox to Grace Jones. "All three are emblematic of the millennial generation, who are constantly remixing and reshaping their identities," said MTV president Stephen Friedman, speaking about Perry, Gaga and Minaj.

"It used to be all about the jocks and the beautiful women, and now the nerd is the new jock," Friedman continued. "The currency is

about being smart and funny and different, and I think that's what they're playing into: (it) is how can they be different than what you can expect the day before."

Ke\$ha, who was absent from this year's VMAs, has also rebelled against the norm. She burst on the scene with her sideshow style singing about brushing her teeth with Jack Daniels; she now wears a necklace

cil Bluffs, Iowa, where she performed her "Get \$leazy Tour." "I like looking homeless sometimes. I like looking like a drunken grandma sometimes. I like looking like a tribal warrior from the future sometimes, and I'm not going to stop playing with my style for anybody."

Being the "weird" girl has definitely enhanced these ladies' platinum profiles. But Gaga, Minaj and Perry did



Ke\$ha poses with her award for Best New Act in the winners area at the MTV European Music Awards in Madrid. Ke\$ha is part of a group of contemporary pop singers who are finding success defying the conventional definition of sexiness with oddball tactics and wacky outfits.

(AP Photo/Dave Fisher, file)

of her fans' teeth. She wears her disheveled look with pride: At last year's VMAs, Minaj sported a fitted dress and pink wig, Perry also sported a sexy dress with pink and purple highlights in her hair. Ke\$ha rocked a trash bag.

"People are like, 'Oh, maybe you should tone the homeless thing down?' It's just not going to happen," Ke\$ha said from Coun-

not always appear to be oddballs.

Gaga started off with a "Jersey Shore"-esque tan and straight blonde extensions. The weirdest part of her look was oversized yet trendy sunglasses. Her music matched her style: Her debut CD, "The Fame," is filled with mostly safe-sounding pop songs that are club-friendly and radio-ready. □

Marc Anthony, J. Lo launch lines at Kohl's

MESFIN FEKADU
Associated Press

JERSEY CITY, New Jersey (AP) — Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony may be ending their personal relationship, but their professional one lives on. Anthony and Lopez launched their fashion lines — the Marc Anthony Collection and the Jennifer Lopez Collection — on Wednesday.

Forty-two-year-old Anthony marked the launch with a ribbon cutting at Kohl's department store in downtown Jersey City, New Jersey. Lopez did not attend, but Anthony says they collaborated a lot on the work.

He says: "I always had Jennifer as a soundboard and vice versa. I'm really happy about her line and I saw all the work that she put into it."

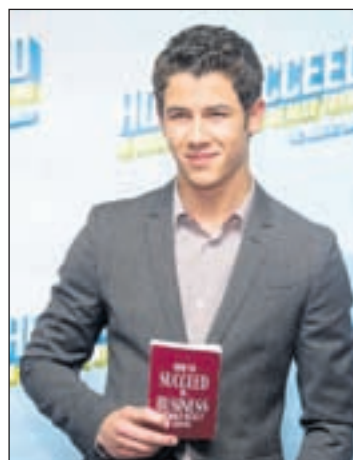
The pair announced their split in July after seven years of marriage. The couple



Singer and actor Marc Anthony unveils his signature Marc Anthony Collection at Kohl's department store Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2011, in Jersey City, N.J. Anthony's collection is part of a line with Jennifer Lopez, who he is divorcing. Her line is called the Jennifer Lopez Collection. (AP Photo/Starpix, Marion Curtis)

has 3-year-old twins named Max and Emme. Anthony said he's "really proud of" 42-year-old Lopez. □

Jonas to replace Radcliffe in play



Nick Jonas attends a news conference to announce he will join the cast of Broadway's "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying", in New York, Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2011. (AP Photo/Charles Sykes)

MARK KENNEDY
AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Producers looking for someone to replace Daniel Radcliffe on Broadway have landed their prize — a Jonas. Nick Jonas will step into the role of J. Pierrepont Finch next

year in "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying." He begins Jan. 24 and will play the role until July 1. "This is going to be an exciting journey," the 19-year-old singer and actor said during his unveiling Wednesday at the venerable theater-district hang-out Sardi's. Radcliffe's final performance is set for Jan. 1. Darren Criss of Fox's hit show "Glee" will make his Broadway debut in the role for three weeks, from Jan. 3 to Jan. 22. Then Jonas, the youngest of the three heartthrob siblings, begins. He's a veteran of the stage, appearing as Little Jake in "Annie Get Your Gun" in 2001 and Chip in "Beauty and the Beast" the following year before playing the young street urchin Gavroche in "Les Miserables" during its final months in 2003, his last time on Broadway. □

Paging history



MAUREEN DOWD

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WASHINGTON – When the House comes back into session this week, there will be no teenagers in blue blazers running around and filling up lawmakers' water glasses and fetching documents. Members of Congress may actually have to open doors for themselves. The venerable House page program, which traces its roots back to the Continental Congress, is no more. The Senate, which cleaves more to tradition, is keeping its pages. But House leaders justified cutting the storied program, saying it cost about \$5 million a year – a pittance given the \$14 trillion national debt – and argued that in an e-world, many of the page duties had become obsolete. (Did Bill Gates, a former page himself, hasten the End of an Era?) There also may have been a reason as old as the Garden of Eden. Noting that Nancy Pelosi and John Boehner had rejected offers by wealthy former pages to cover the costs of the program, Jonathan Turley, a George Washington law professor and ex-page, told NPR that "some members of Congress view the pages as a temptation and a liability for members of Congress, that every 10 or 20 years, we have some member who tries to molest or proposition a page."

When I ran the temptation theory past my brother Martin, an artist who worked as a Senate and House page in the '50s, he was shocked. "In 1954, it is likely that the entire page corps were virgins," he said. "If someone had experience, he certainly would have bragged about it." I asked Martin to reminisce about his most interesting high school brushes with history. "I met three men who would later become president of the United States," he said. "Richard Nixon was extremely polite and easy to work for. John Kennedy, the junior senator from Massachusetts, yelled at me for a good five minutes in December of 1954 for opening the door of the Senate for him while he was on crutches after back surgery. He kept asking, 'Who asked you to open the door for me?' Apparently, he didn't realize that was my job." In retrospect, Martin understood that JFK, in chronic pain, was probably sensitive about looking like an invalid. A few weeks before the censure vote

of Joe McCarthy in 1954, Martin had seen JFK walking with his best friend in the Senate, George Smathers, of Florida. "I read in The New York Times that you're not going to be here for the censure vote," Smathers teased Kennedy, alluding to the fact that McCarthy was a friend of Joe Kennedy's and Bobby Kennedy worked for him. "Don't believe everything you read in The Times," Kennedy shot back. But then, Martin said, "When the vote actually came up, he was in the hospital having back surgery, so at least in this case, The Times was right." Martin's best friend on the Hill was Gary Helgason, a McCarthy page. "Gary was clearly not the blue-blood, high-brow type," Martin said. "He would threaten anyone who would say anything negative about Sen. McCarthy to take them to the page room and give them a good whipping." Martin happily recalled walking Jackie Kennedy to the family gallery: "There were two seats particularly that the pages wanted her to be seated in because she had the most attractive legs of any senators' wives. We wouldn't have done that for Mrs. Truman." He worked for LBJ when he was the Senate minority leader. "Most pages were frightened of Johnson, and I remember one page saying he would vote him to be president just to move him down Pennsylvania Avenue and away from him! Johnson sent me once to help Lady Bird set up a party and asked me if I knew who she was. I did. She was the complete opposite of Johnson – very lovely lady to work for!" There were plenty of temptations that had nothing to do with the pages. Martin watched Barry Goldwater tell Sen. Herman Welker, a Republican from Idaho who was loudly humming and singing as he presided over the Senate, that he was "in no condition" to "be in that seat." Welker, a tough guy, told Goldwater to "come up and do something about it," but Goldwater, a gentleman, walked away. As the only senator who tipped the pages a dime, William Fulbright of Arkansas was popular. So when an angry Fulbright called the cloakroom looking for her husband and accusing him of being with another woman, the pages did their best to protect their favorite senator.

As a page in 1952, Martin watched on the Capitol steps as my dad, a police detective in charge of Senate security, greeted Harry Truman as "Mr. President." "Mike," Truman chided him, "call me Harry like you always did." Martin concluded: "After being a page, Dad got me a job at the Botanical Gardens shoveling and spreading manure. Many people thought the two jobs were similar." □



The whole truth and nothing but

THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

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Kishore Mahbubani, a retired Singaporean diplomat, published a provocative essay in The Financial Times on Monday that began like this: "Dictators are falling. Democracies are failing. A curious coincidence? Or is it, perhaps, a sign that something fundamental has changed in the grain of human history. I believe so. How do dictators survive? They tell lies. Muammar Gaddafi was one of the biggest liars of all time. He claimed that his people loved him. He also controlled the flow of information to his people to prevent any alternative narrative taking hold. Then the simple cellphone enabled people to connect. The truth spread widely to drown out all the lies that the colonel broadcast over the airwaves. "So why are democracies failing at the same time? The simple answer: Democracies have also been telling lies." Mahbubani noted that "the eurozone project was created on a big lie" that countries could have monetary union and fiscal independence – without pain. Meanwhile, in America, added Mahbubani, now the dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore, "No U.S. leaders dare to tell the truth to the people. All their pronouncements rest on a mythical assumption that 'recovery' is around the corner. Implicitly, they say this is a normal recession. But this is no normal recession. There will be no painless solution. 'Sacrifice' will be needed, and the American people know this. But no American politician dares utter the word 'sacrifice.' Painful truths cannot be told."

Of course, there is a big difference between America and Libya. We can vote out our liars, unlike certain Arab – and Asian – countries. Still, Mahbubani's comparison

warrants some reflection this week, which coincides with the 10th anniversary of 9/11 and the president's jobs speech. It is a great week for truth-telling. Can you remember the last time you felt a national leader looked us in the eye and told us there is no easy solution to our major problems, that we've gotten into this mess by being self-indulgent or ideologically fixated over two decades and that now we need to spend the next five years rolling up our sleeves, possibly accepting a lower living standard and making up for our excesses? For me, this is the most important thing to say both on the anniversary of 9/11 and on the eve of President Barack Obama's jobs speech. After all, they are intertwined. Why has this been a lost decade? An answer can be found in one simple comparison: how Dwight Eisenhower and his successors used the cold war and how George W. Bush used 9/11. America had to face down the Russians in the Cold War. America had to respond to 9/11 and the threat of al-Qaida. But the critical difference between the two was this: Beginning with Eisenhower and continuing to some degree with every Cold War president, we used the Cold War and the Russian threat as a reason and motivator to do big, hard things together at home – to do nation-building in America. We used it to build the interstate highway system, put a man on the moon, push out the boundaries of science, teach new languages, maintain fiscal discipline and, when needed, raise taxes. We won the Cold War with collective action. George W. Bush did the opposite. He used 9/11 as an excuse to lower taxes, to start two wars that – for the first time in our history – were not paid for by tax increases, and to create a costly new entitlement in Medicare

prescription drugs. Imagine where we'd be today if on the morning of 9/12 Bush had announced (as some of us advocated) a "Patriot Tax" of \$1 per gallon of gas to pay for education, infrastructure and government research, to help finance for our wars and to slash our dependence on Middle East oil. Gasoline in the U.S. on Sept. 11, 2001, averaged \$1.66 a gallon. But rather than use 9/11 to summon us to nation-building at home, Bush used it as an excuse to party – to double down on a radical tax-cutting agenda for the rich that not only did not spur rising living standards for most Americans but has now left us with a huge ball and chain around our ankle. And later, rather than asking each of us to contribute something to the war, he outsourced it to one-half of one-percent of the American people. Everyone else – y'all have fun. We used the Cold War to reach the moon and spawn new industries. We used 9/11 to create better body scanners and more TSA agents. It will be remembered as one of the greatest lost opportunities of any presidency – ever. My fervent hope is that on Thursday Obama will set an example and tell the cold, hard truth – to parents and kids. I know. Honesty, we are told, is suicidal in politics. But as long as every solution that is hard is off the table, then our slow national decline will remain on the table. The public is ready for more than Michele Bachmann's fairy-dust promise that she can restore \$2 a gallon gasoline. For once, Mr. President, let's start a debate with the truth. Tell us what you really think will be required to get us out of this stagnation, what kind of collective action and shared sacrifice will be needed and why that can lead not just to muddling through, not just to being OK, but to restoring American greatness. □

The spirit of a city as it reeled from its wounds



The Sept. 11 exhibit at the New-York Historical Society in New York, Sept. 6, 2011. The show focuses on the personal side of the attacks, not its global implications.

(Fred R. Conrad/The New York Times)

EDWARD ROTHSTEIN

© 2011 New York Times

NEW YORK – After 10 years the devil is still in the details. And we see them, again and again, in the modest exhibition opening at the New-York Historical Society on Thursday, “Remembering 9/11.”

The images still have the feel of raw scars: the gashed towers spewing smoke; the layers of pale, powdery dust from metal, paper and flesh covering a rack of abandoned bicycles; exhausted firefighters and police officers tempering their own terror to rescue others; eyes of onlookers peering up, hands over mouths, shocked at seeing things still thought too horrifying to show; the deserted Holland Tunnel; piles of ruined fire hydrants; a forensic specialist’s test tube showing a single tooth.

And we see images of the shrines that seemed to spring up in any public space of the city, with candles, poems, photographs, pleas: “Missing Person,” “Please Call,” “Have you seen my Daddy?”

“Missing,” one sign announces, “Two handsome twins”: The illustration shows a ghostly image of the two towers.

The exhibition’s curator, Marilyn Satin Kushner, explained in an interview that, apart from incorporating images from Washington and from Shanksville, Pa., these 135 photographs were randomly selected from the 6,500 that were gathered in the months after the attacks and displayed in two small SoHo storefronts in what was almost an impromptu commemoration called “Here Is New York: A Democracy



A display of photos and relics from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks as part of an exhibit at the New-York Historical Society in New York, Sept. 6, 2011.

(Fred R. Conrad/The New York Times)

195 Broadway, at Fulton Street, near the ground zero site, from Saturday to Sept. 18.

Some will be permanently mounted in a new gallery of the historical society when its building fully opens on Nov. 11, after its extensive renovation and redesign. For now this exhibition, free to the public, is in a small rotunda entry space and a long cramped hallway. Four years ago, when the New-York Historical Society gave a more complete showing of these photographs, they seemed to suggest that Sept. 11 was still something to be remembered rather than interpreted, still an event that could only be invoked

So this exhibition supplements the photographs with objects saved from makeshift shrines, some of the poems and posters still covered with drops of wax from memorial candles. Also shown here are children’s letters and drawings donated by fire and police departments, expressions of touching directness and sincerity sent to New York from all over the country and from foreign lands as well.

The exhibition includes a selection of the “Portraits of Grief” pages published in The New York Times in the months after Sept. 11; every day the paper offered brief, pungent evocations of individual lives



Children’s letters and tributes as part of a Sept. 11 exhibit at the New-York Historical Society in New York, Sept. 6, 2011.

(Fred R. Conrad/The New York Times)

of Photographs.” Solicited and unsolicited, unsigned, undated and unidentified, roughly rendered on inkjet printers, these accumulated images from the life of a city, which are now part of the society’s collection, still have a powerful effect. They seem to overlay one another in the mind, each one added to a ghostly memory of another, imprints of shocking and immediate experience. The original collection also included first-person video recollections, five of which are sampled here in audio form.

A wider selection of images will also be shown in a free exhibition in the lobby of

as a series of traumatic memories, not as a historical event to be understood and put into context.

Surprisingly, not much has changed for the 10th anniversary, either here or in many other planned events this week.

The private details of grief still overwhelm any sense of public meaning, which is peculiar given the scale of the event and its consequences.

But those private details are still powerful in themselves. With great savvy, soon after the attacks, Kenneth T. Jackson, then president of the society, set a goal of collecting material associated with Sept. 11.

lost. Thirty four reproduced pages are mounted as two video screens slowly scroll through the complete collection of these portraits. Again details tell, sketching the fireman who loved to teach children about safety (Raymond R. York); the Indian software designer on a three-month project in New York (Shreyas Ranganath); the accounting manager who had a year earlier graduated from Queens College night school while working two jobs (Del-Rose Cheatham); the insurance broker who, from the time he was 13, had dreamed of moving to New York from Williamsburg, Va. (Rick Blood). □